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BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 30 • No. 24 • 15 June 2000

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Big Three automakers OK partner benefits

by Cynthia Laird

In a move that was hailed by gay rights activists, the three largest American automakers last Thursday, June 8, announced that they will extend healthcare benefits to domestic partners of employees.

The announcement from General Motors Corporation, Ford Motor Company, and the Chrysler division of DaimlerChrysler AG

covers about 345,000 employees and could signal that such benefits will become standard in corporate America. The three companies issued a joint announcement in Detroit and were joined by representatives of the United Auto Workers.

The extended coverage will begin August 1. Eligible employees can apply to get medical, dental, and prescription benefits for their same-sex partners. The policy does not cover domestic partners of heterosexual couples or current retirees, although workers and their partners who receive the benefits will keep them after the workers retire.

San Francisco activist Jeff Sheehy, with Equal Benefits Advocates, praised the decision. EBA was formed several years ago in response to United Airlines' court battle with the city's landmark equal benefit ordinance. That law requires companies doing business with the city to offer benefits to domestic partners of employees if those benefits are offered to employees' spouses.

"I do think that the victory with United and the airlines really started a trend," Sheehy told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "We as a community signaled that this is what we want and what we're fighting for and that is being communicated to corporate America."

"This is a landmark announcement," said Kim Mills, education director with the



Jeff Sheehy

HPPC: HIV causes AIDS

by Terry Beswick

When a government panel charged with slowing the spread of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, puts out a statement saying that HIV causes AIDS, on the surface it may appear to be an exercise in redundancy.

Most AIDS experts on a local level have for years simply ignored so-called HIV dissidents in the hope that in time the small fringe movement would go away.

But since gaining an audience earlier this year from South-Africa President Thabo Mbeki — who gave credence to the question of whether HIV is in fact the cause of AIDS by appointing several U.S. dissidents to a new presidential advisory panel on AIDS — the small HIV denialist movement has been galvanized into more aggressive action both internationally and on the domestic front.

Last week, the San Francisco HIV Prevention Planning Council, which prioritizes local HIV prevention efforts, decided it was finally time to take a stand. Calling the dissidents' central message that HIV does not cause AIDS "anti-science mythology," the council joined an increasing chorus of front-line AIDS workers and scientists who are speaking out publicly, by adopting a letter that states HIV causes AIDS.

Steven Tierney, director of HIV prevention for the San Francisco Department of Public Health and a co-chair of the HPPC, said that he hopes the council's statement will be the "beginning of a continued discussion of the issue."

"Prior to this time, it was like, 'It's controversial and inflammatory and so let's not discuss it,'" Tierney said. "I think it goes to the basic premise of why we have an HPPC, which is to decrease the number of new infections in the city."

"The HPPC believes that there is



Steven Tierney

Texas court overturns sodomy law

by Katie Szymanski

Texas Governor George W. Bush has one less legal reason to hate us, thanks to a decision by the state's appellate court last week that overturned the consensual sodomy law.

The public may remember when, in that great state that gives guns to kids and executes gay people for having bad attorneys, Houston police in 1998 entered an apartment and arrested two men engaged in a private sexual act. Although the officers, responding to a false report of an intruder, found John Lawrence and Tyron Garner having sex in Lawrence's own home, they held the pair for 24 hours, charged them under Texas' "Homosexual Conduct" law, and released them on \$200 bond each. The men pleaded "no contest" in criminal court, and the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund represented them in their appeal.

In a 2-1 majority opinion issued last Thursday, June 8, the Texas Court of Appeals struck down the sodomy law on the grounds that it violates the Equal Rights Amendment of the Texas Constitution by discriminating solely on the basis of a person's sex.

"The simple fact is, the same behavior is criminal for some but not for others," Justice John S. Anderson wrote. "Moreover, it does not follow that simply because the Texas Leg-



Cyndi wows 'em in San Jose

Singer Cyndi Lauper draped herself in a rainbow flag while singing to thousands of people at last Sunday's 25th annual San Jose Pride festival. The two-day event included many activities, as well as the Pride Parade.

Jane Philomen Celand

islature has enacted as law what may be the moral choice of the majority, the courts are, thereafter, bound to acquiesce. Our Constitution does not protect morality; it does, however, guarantee equality to all persons under the law."

Lambda attorneys at the organization's New York headquarters were excited about the decision, calling it an "end to second-class citizenship," and pointing out its far-reaching consequences for issues like job discrimination and gay parenting.

"The Texas law was notorious in its use to justify employment discrimination, custody decisions, and other anti-gay harms," Lambda staff attorney Suzanne Goldberg told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Because lesbians and gays were legally considered "criminals," that criminal activity was often used to challenge parenting and job abilities. Lambda in fact years ago represented a lesbian who was denied a spot on the police force because she was a "criminal."

The Texas sodomy law has been on the books since 1860, but the state decriminalized sodomy between opposite-sex couples in 1974. Last week's court decision leaves just three states with gay-specific laws against sodomy; 12 more states prohibit the act for heterosexuals as well.

While the battle isn't over — the prosecuting attorney has said he plans to appeal the decision to the higher appellate court — Gold-

berg said Lambda was prepared to fight.

"The court's decision was very clear: the Texas 'Homosexual Conduct' law draws a line based on sex by criminalizing the acts of only some people," said Goldberg. "The bottom line is these men never would have been arrested and prosecuted had they been a man and a woman, and that is unconstitutional." ▼

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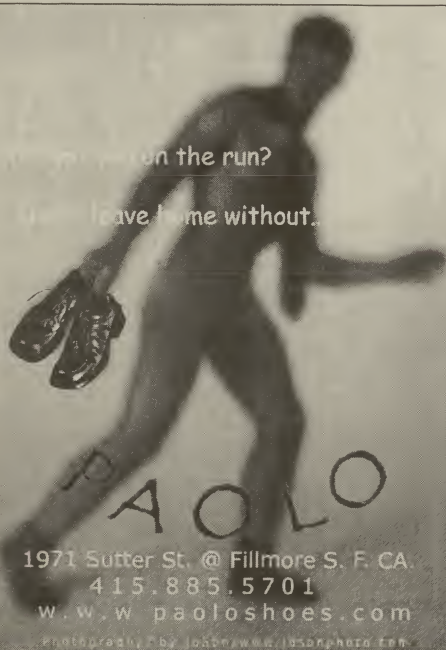
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Dancin' at the prom



Young LGBTQ couples danced the night away at the annual Gay Prom in Hayward last Saturday, June 10. The alcohol and drug-free event featured several activities, including the crowning of two prom kings and two prom queens. About 400 young people attended the prom, which was sponsored by the Lambda Youth Project of Horizons Services.

Art and performance event for East Bay lesbian candidate this Sunday

by Katie Szymanski

As Rebecca Kaplan gears up to win the spot as Oakland's only open lesbian city councilmember, the Green Party candidate for the city's at-large seat has invited the public to attend an afternoon of "food, art, politics, and spoken word" this Sunday, June 18, at the Old Oakland Cohousing Complex.

The 3-6 p.m. event features writer Aya de Leon, the award-winning author of *Love2K* and director of the Mother Tongue Institute for Creative Development; dancer and poet Chris Sia, author of *Midnight Arson*; historian and writer Aurora Levins-Morales, author of *Medicine Stories* and *Getting Home Alive*; feminist historian Max Dashu, founder of the Suppressed Histories archives; and poet James Dalessandro, author of



Rebecca Kaplan

Citizen Jane, *Bohemian Heart*, and *1906*, a book and film about the San Francisco earthquake.

Food will be provided by local chefs from restaurants such as Belon, Montage, and Pauline's. Kaplan's campaign organizers request a donation of \$50-\$500, all

of which will benefit Kaplan's campaign against the incumbent, Councilmember Henry Chang.

The election is November 7 and all Oakland voters, regardless of their district, can vote for the at-large seat. Kaplan has been endorsed by San Francisco Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammi-ano, Green Party presidential candidate Ralph Nader, Noam Chomsky, and a wide variety of progressive and political organizations.

The Old Oakland Cohousing Complex is located at 9th Street between Clay and Washington in downtown Oakland; use the Swan's Court entrance. Public transportation to the event is accessible via the 12th Street BART station, and complimentary valet bicycle parking will be provided. For more information on the event, contact (415) 541-5618. For information on Kaplan's campaign, call (510) 465-5193 or visit www.rebeccakaplan.org.

Fed court tosses fundie lawsuit against city

by Katie Szymanski

Listen up, bigots: when city officials criticize your transparent schemes, it doesn't violate your precious First Amendment rights.

That, in essence, was the decision handed down from the Federal District Court for the Northern District of California last week, dismissing a lawsuit brought by the American Family Association last year against the city of San Francisco and Supervisor Leslie Katz.

The AFA—champions of the nationally distributed conversion therapy advertisements that tried to con-

vince lesbians to change their sinful ways by marrying gay men—sued the city after Katz requested that the Board of Supervisors write a letter to several conservative leaders denouncing their anti-gay rhetoric.

The AFA claimed that the letters—sent to Newt Gingrich, Trent Lott, Jesse Helms, and a host of religious right organizations—violated their First Amendment guarantees of free speech. The federal court, however, disagreed that the free speech of city officials threatened the booming industry of hate speech.

"I certainly feel vindicated by the court's decision," Katz said in a statement.

"However, our first and most

significant victory came when Jerry Falwell and the religious right recognized that their own rhetoric was destructive and needed to change," said Katz, referring to the historic meeting between Falwell and a group of religious gays held in Virginia last fall. The gay leaders returned to their hometowns after convincing Falwell to tone down his anti-gay rhetoric.

Katz was notified of the court's dismissal of the right-wing lawsuit last Thursday, June 8.

"I always felt we had the moral high ground," said Katz, "now we have the judicial imprimatur."

The AFA, which called the ruling, "stunning," has vowed to appeal. ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

The straight edge

Group alleges Pride festival bias

by Katie Szymanski

Just when you thought the storm had calmed for the San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Parade and Celebration Committee Inc., a group of performers and activists this week challenged the committee for what has become a common practice of large gay establishments: headlining and highlighting heterosexuals.

At a Monday, June 12 news conference, the group accused the Pride Committee of using most of its entertainment funds to entice non-local heterosexuals, leaving no money and no publicity for performers who are local and actually representative of queer communities.

"In San Francisco, tens of thousands of dollars are available to pay entertainers," said a statement issued by the group, which included performers Pansy Division, LZ Love, Joan Jett-Blakk, and producer Robin Tyler. Supporters joining the group included local activists Ken McPherson and Hydie Downard.

"Ironically and outrageously, most money for this 'queer' event appears to be budgeted for heterosexual performers who don't live in San Francisco," the group's statement continued. "As these substantial fees are paid, local gay performers have been asked to perform for free. Though Pride



Chris Freeman, left, and Jon Ginoli of Pansy Division spoke out against the Pride Committee's paying heterosexual entertainers at the expense of LGBT performers.

event producers say local entertainers receive 'exposure,' only paid entertainers are mentioned in promotional advertising."

As usual, the Pride committee tells quite a different story.

"We are only paying about half a dozen performers and quite frankly it's not a lot," Teddy Witherington, executive director of Pride, told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "Additionally, we always ask all performers - big and small - to donate their talent, and we've been successful in the past. [Previous Pride headliners] Chumbawamba and Joan Baez, for instance, both donated their services. But as more Pride events emerge and there is more to compete with, we find that we sometimes must offer a sum to cover

traveling expenses and hotels of performers. And it's not a gay or a straight thing. We're covering expenses of queer artists as well."

Within the group of dissenters, said Witherington, only LZ Love was invited and scheduled to play at this year's festival. But Witherington also said that the Pride Committee would address the issue with those who are disenchanted.

"It's really not a confrontational issue for us, we've always wanted to hear from people. But being the dysfunctional queer community that we are these things start out with shouting, then we do what always do, we sit down and respectfully work stuff out."

"We want to put on the event the community expects of us," Witherington added. ▽

Pink Saturday volunteers needed

by Terry Beswick

It's considered a "happening," one of those permit-less street parties that just happens to happen every year: same time, same place.

Since 1992, Pink Saturday is the "spontaneous" street celebration on the night before the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Parade and Celebration, when thousands of local and visiting revelers converge in the heart of the Castro neighborhood.

For the last few years, the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence have habitually stepped forward to bring their own queer order to the chaos, trucking in Portapotties, paying the bills, and setting up gates around the Castro vicinity.

"We're the Pink Welcome Wagon and Party Hostesses rolled into one," said organizer Sister Kitty Catalyst. "This is the third time I've run this event and every year the crowd is more queer and more fun."

This year, the Sisters are recruiting nonprofit groups and volunteers to help with the event

on Saturday, June 24. And for each shift worked by volunteers from 6:30-9:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. to midnight, \$50 will be given to the nonprofit of their choice.

The Sisters say they need over 100 volunteers to staff the gates and collect donations. In addition

to earning \$50 for their favorite nonprofit, volunteers will also receive a limited edition Pink Saturday T-shirt. ▽

Sign up to volunteer by leaving a message at (415) 255-6455.

Get hitched at Pride

by Katie Szymanski

If you missed the recent City Hall ceremony or just didn't feel ready to take the plunge, the Saturday before the Pride Parade offers another chance to get officially "partnered," this time at the state level.

Thanks to legislation passed by Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco), California now recognizes registered gay and lesbian domestic partners as automatically entitled to hospital visitation and, if one of the partners works for the state, eligible for spousal health insurance.

To celebrate your union (and guarantee that no homophobic relative can keep you from seeing your partner in an emergency), Migden has invited all domestic partners - including those already registered with the city of San Francisco - to participate in a couples ceremony next Saturday, June 24 at 1 p.m. The ceremony will take place at the main stage in Civic Center and will be conducted

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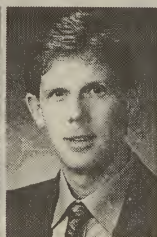
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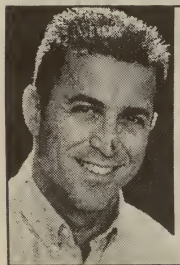
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TG task force meets

by Terry Beswick

The first meeting of San Francisco's newly-minted Transgender Civil Rights Implementation Task Force, convened by Supervisor Mark Leno on June 1 at City Hall, was largely dominated by housekeeping duties, including adoption of bylaws, creation of subcommittees, and election of interim co-chairs.

But the 17-member task force is charged with overseeing the implementation of a series of sweeping anti-discrimination recommendations contained in a 1994 report from the city's Human Rights Commission, and the group has wasted no time getting down to work.

Since the first meeting, the task force has sent a letter to state senators, urging passage of AB2142, a bill already passed by the state Assembly that would outlaw discrimination on the basis of gender identity in the areas of employment and housing. Assuming pas-



Rick Gerbner

Dominique Rosa Leslie, left, and Marcus Arana, new co-chairs of the city's transgender task force, at the group's first meeting.

sage in the Senate, the task force is also urging the governor's signature on the bill – a much more tenuous proposal.

The legislation which chartered the task force, authored by Leno, established the advisory group for two years.

Longtime transgender activists Dominique Rosa Leslie and Marcus Arana, a staff member of the HRC, were selected by the task

force to serve as interim co-chairs, initially for a three-month period.

Staffed by Leno's office, the entire task force will hold regular public meetings in City Hall on the first Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. Six standing subcommittees also will meet monthly: employment; education, outreach, and community relations; law enforcement and hate crimes; public and

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Exhibit tonight benefits Visual Aid

by Katie Szymanski

Museum-quality paintings, photographs, sculpture, and original works on paper will be on exhibit and for sale this week to benefit Visual Aid, the organization that encourages artistic expression for people with life-threatening diseases.

Sponsored by ArtHaus and Hotel Palomar, the exhibit will highlight New York and San Francisco artists Brian Blood, Serena Bocchino, Jeffery Ketcham, Marc Lambrechts, and Carol Massa. It begins tonight (Thursday, June 15), at Hotel Palomar, 12 Fourth Street, in San Francisco. A portion of the proceeds from the art sold goes to Visual Aid, which provides direct services

to artists with illnesses so that they may continue to create their work.

This evening's opening features a champagne reception in the Moma Room from 6-8 p.m. and the exhibit continues through June 17. Exhibit hours are Friday, June 16, from 4-8 p.m. and Saturday, June 17, from noon-6 p.m. For more information on the exhibit and sale, contact (415) 922-8219. ▼

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Lesbian artists' exhibit opens, conference next week

by Liz Highleyman

Last Saturday, June 10, Lesbians in the Visual Arts celebrated its 10th anniversary with an opening reception for its new "Recognition" exhibit at the South of Market Cultural Center/SomArts Gallery in San Francisco.

The exhibit runs through June 28 and showcases lesbian artists whose work explores the themes of identity, community, family, and culture, from diverse personal, political, and generational standpoints. The exhibit features 28 artists spanning a wide range of ages and races, and working in a variety of mediums. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Sunday from noon until 7:30 pm.

LVA was founded in 1990 by current Executive Director



LVA director Happy/L.A. Hyder, left, talked with painter Max at the San Francisco opening for LVA's exhibit last Saturday.

Happy/L.A. Hyder. The multi-issue organization focuses on both the practical and the imaginative

and creative aspects of lesbian visual art. LVA's mission is to build an international network – currently numbering over 480 members – that provides an opportunity to dialogue about issues in contemporary art, as well as issues specific to being a lesbian working in the visual arts.

According to Hyder, "Lesbian vision is lost without the ability to produce and display lesbian art." LVA also publishes the art journal *Pentimento*.

"Recognition" is supported in part by the Astraea National Lesbian Action Foundation, Bay Area Career Women's A Fund of Our Own, the Horizons Foundation, and the San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund.

As part of the exhibit, there will be a conference next Friday, June 23 and Saturday, June 24. Friday

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Buy a toilet, help shower the homeless

by Terry Beswick

It's a creative twist on charitable giving, but hey, it's a win-win for both homeowners and the homeless.

This Saturday, June 17, San Franciscans who own a single-family home or apartment building – or their authorized agents – and buy a brand new ultra low-flow toilet will be blessed with the satisfaction of a Good Samaritan every time they flush. These fortunate folks will rest easy in the comfort of their bathroom, knowing that a portion of the purchase price helped provide a critical fresh start for homeless people – simply by giving them a good, hot shower.

Part of a program from the city's Water Department, the toilets use only 1.6 gallons per flush and will be sold for \$10 each at the Fire Department Training Center, at 19th and Folsom streets from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday only.

In exchange for helping the Water Department, the Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco will receive funds for

every toilet sold to help support the church's "Shower Program," which opens up the showers at Mission High School for homeless people every weekend morning.

"After a hot shower, they all feel like success stories," said Elba Montes, coordinator for MCCSF's shower program.

All toilets will be in standard white, have a "rough-in" of 12 inches, and come with a five-year warranty and step-by-step instructions in Spanish, Chinese, and English.

And whether you live in Pacific Heights or get your mail through General Delivery, the partnership between MCCSF and the Water Department will help conserve water to ensure that everyone will be able to take a shower in years to come. According to the department, those who buy the toilet usually save about \$90 a year on their water and sewer bills.

For more information about the sales, call the San Francisco Water Department at (415) 923-2571. For information about MCCSF's "Shower Program," call (415) 863-4454. ▼

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We are families

Our "friends" over at the *San Francisco Chronicle* seem to have taken a plunge off the mountain of tolerance, judging by an editorial Monday entitled "Not the Marrying Kind," which lamented the demise of the two-parent, heterosexual household in a recent survey that showed men and women in their 20s have two priorities: financial success and postponing marriage indefinitely.

"... Nonetheless, the trend toward casual sex, and as the study found, having children outside of marriage, has disturbing implications about the future of the traditional families and the value of two-parent households with regard to rearing children." the editorial read.

What? That's right! The *Chronicle* — which this year editorialized against the anti-gay Proposition 22 and has spent a lot of money to be the major media sponsor of next weekend's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Parade and Celebration — has apparently settled for outdated beliefs when it comes to the family unit.

Just recently, the conservative U.S. Supreme Court acknowledged the changing family dynamic under way in America today, with its level-headed ruling concerning grandparents' rights. Yet the largest daily newspaper in the gay mecca sees fit to wax eloquent about the so-called traditional family (read: a dad, a mom, and 2.5 kids) when in fact, families are rapidly changing.

In just the last few years, more and more lesbians and gays are rearing children, and more and more transgender people are coming out and establishing new relationships with their children from a heterosexual marriage. In fact, the LGBT family has become common enough to spawn its own cottage industry, complete with a glossy magazine and numerous organizations. Groups like the Alternative Family Project and Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere have numerous support groups for kids of LGBT parents so that they can handle the often-present teasing at school and other homophobic and transphobic incidents that occur as they try to live their lives in a society that, while changing, keeps clinging to hateful and intolerant beliefs such as "LGBT people shouldn't be parents."

While not all of us want "marriage" or a "family" in the so-called traditional sense, we as a community have become far more accustomed to those in the community who are breaking the long-standing "rules" of what it means to be a family.

The term "family" is becoming broader, whether it be extended families and relatives who raise children, or LGBT families who have children. For a major newspaper in one

of the most diverse regions in the country to not see that is an oversight that needs correcting.

Speaking of correcting oversights, the Big Three automakers last week announced that, beginning August 1, they will offer health benefits to domestic partners of same-sex employees. The move is major in that it proves domestic partner benefits are fast becoming part of corporate America and that's a good thing. The announcement by General Motors Corporation, Ford Motor Company, and the Chrysler division of DaimlerChrysler AG covers about 345,000 employees, though only about 1 percent of the work force is expected to take advantage of the benefits.

In this increasingly global economy that has been booming largely because of the Internet and related high-tech industries, to see a "rust belt" industry like the automakers make a substantial move toward equality for gays and lesbians in the workplace is gratifying.

We also believe that the local fight with United Airlines over that company's initial refusal to offer domestic partner benefits in compliance with the San Francisco law was a catalyst for the wave of businesses that have agreed to provide the benefits. The highly-publicized court fight with United — and the unity of the LGBT community around this important issue — convinced other compa-

nies to see the writing on the wall, and to realize that offering domestic partner benefits makes good business sense.

Organized labor played a major role in the Big Three's joint decision. The automakers reached their conclusion based on a study asked for by the United Auto Workers, one of the country's most powerful unions.

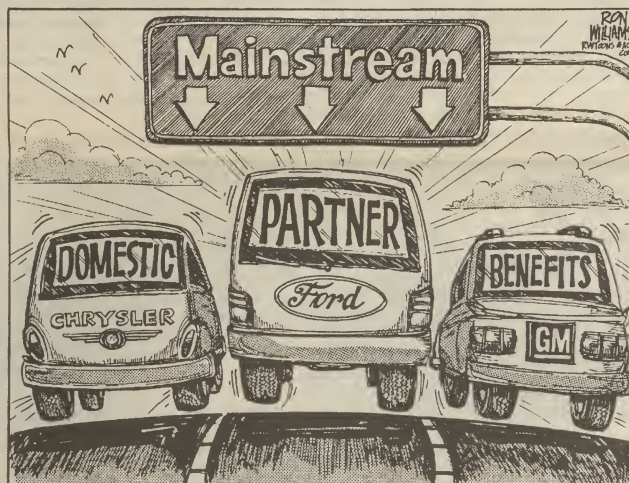
In fact, the year 2000 is shaping up to be one of the more progressive in terms of advancements in equal rights for the LGBT communities. In other developments in the fight for equality so far this year, Vermont legalized same-sex civil unions, and a Texas appeals court overturned an archaic anti-gay sodomy law. We're still waiting for the Supreme Court to issue its ruling in the Boy Scout case, and we're still waiting for California Governor Gray Davis to be less of a centrist by signing progressive, incremental bills that would expand the state's domestic partner registry to include more rights for same-sex couples. And, of course, there are new battles all the time, from gay-straight alliances in public schools to fighting job and parenting discrimination that are both too common today.

Still, in this, the week before San Francisco's world-famous Pride Parade, while we have a lot of work yet to do, we have much to celebrate.

And, yes, we are all families. However you define them. ▼



Editorial



Just another Pride Week?

by Daniel Epp

San Francisco is the first place that I have ever lived where the fact that I am gay isn't even particularly interesting. I can just imagine a typical "coming out" conversation in this town:

"Hey, Felicia, I want you to know that I've come out. I'm gay!"

"Wow! That's great, Dan!"

"Thanks."

"Say, did you hear that my girlfriend had her left nostril pierced in nine places?"

"Wow. That's great!"

"Yeah, so anyway, I'm so excited: My landlord wants to buy me out so she can sell the place to some dot-com generation X'er."

And so on. It's easy to downplay, or just forget, what it truly means to be gay and out. I submit that gay Pride Week is a time when you can recapture the joy and exhilaration of learning that you can be who you are, and that it's wonderful. But it's also easy to think: God, the parking will be horrible.

A couple of years ago I went back to visit my family in Nebraska during a three-day weekend. Pretending to be a good Lutheran, I went to church on Sunday with my

parents (no, this isn't some story about Christian right-wing homophobia, for once). As I entered the sanctuary I noticed all of these little American flags sticking from the end of each pew.

"What are these flags for?" I asked my mother.

"For the veterans," she replied. "It's Memorial Day, remember?"

The fact that millions of people had died for my country had not even crossed my mind. It was just another three-day weekend: time to sleep in, go sailing, maybe paint the kitchen. I had forgotten that holidays were supposed to mean something.

The point is, we have a whole week here devoted to gay pride, and you can make it mean something or you can just let it roll by.

Are you proud to be gay? Or have you just accepted it and moved on?

Six years ago I wasn't proud to be gay. I was terrified. I had become so good at hiding that I couldn't even find myself anymore. When I finally emerged from my dark closet, I found myself trembling with excitement and relief. It wasn't just okay to be gay, it was great! There was a big, bright

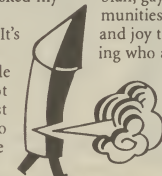
world where I belonged after all. I wouldn't wish the struggle on anyone, but it was the pain of hiding that made coming out feel so joyful.

This week, I hope each of us in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities can feel that sense of excitement and joy that comes from lovingly embracing who and what we are. Feel the passion and freedom of kissing your partner on a city sidewalk. Put on your best hair and heels and go crazy. Speak at a rally. Dance at the street fair.

Don't forget to thank the people who fought to make this week possible. Many of them live right here. Remember those who died from a nation's indifference to AIDS or of a hate crime. Dream of what will be your unique contribution to the world.

Or don't. It's a free country. Anyway, you can be sure of one thing: you won't find parking. ▼

Daniel Epp is an attorney and an employee relations consultant living in San Francisco.



Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Going strong at 75

On June 20, Dr. Lowell Houser, a pioneer in the gay community, will celebrate his 75th birthday. An open house will be held this Friday afternoon, June 16 and Saturday morning, June 17 at Beck's Motor Lodge, 2222 Market Street (621-8212). A surprise party will be held at the SF Church of Religious Science, after services on Sunday, June 18 at 1 p.m. The church is located at 280 Claremont Boulevard, one block from the West Portal Tunnel. Friends and patients are encouraged to come early to hear an inspiring message by the Reverend Muata Rasuli. Religious Science United in February put sexual preference first in its policy statement.

Dr. Houser began his practice in 1976 after graduating at the age of 50 from L.A. College of Chiropractic. He had the vision and the guts to be the first D.C. to advertise his Polk Street practice in the *Bay Area Reporter*. I joined him shortly thereafter as office manager and completed my massage schooling prior to our forced move to the Castro. This turned out to be one of many blessings as the majority of his patients lived in the vicinity and appreciated the convenient location.

Houser Chiropractic thrived until about two years ago. By that time, AIDS had taken a great toll and with the new HMO and PPO agencies, it was a devastating blow to a long, successful business. Skyrocketing rent in the Castro forced us to move to the Mendocino coast in June 1998. But the demand for Dr. Houser's knowledge and experience continues so we continue to return to our favorite city the first and third Friday and Saturday of the month. Dr. Houser continues his practice in the Mendocino area and manages to spend a little more time kayaking and creating his unique cabinetry designs.

Thank you San Francisco-area people for your support - and please join us for this joyous time.

Glenn Schmoll
Mendocino, California

Pleasuredome apologizes

For the first time in its long history, Pleasuredome was unable to open on Sunday, June 11, because of an electrical emergency. We hope to see everyone this Sunday, June 18. Admission will be FREE all night to everyone. We regret any inconvenience to our loyal customers.

Audrey Joseph, Events Manager
Pleasuredome

Pride board's lack of respect

With friends like those running the San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Parade, our community could look long and far and not find enemies more offensive. In San Francisco, "Pride" represents secrecy, corporate greed, disenfranchising the poor, and just about everything it is supposed to stand against. Words like liberation, justice, fairness, compassion and respect have been forgotten.

Since 1980, I have helped organize the judges for each year's parade. That will not happen this year. The attitude and conduct of those running our parade is no longer acceptable. I've never seen anything like it.

Clearly, what drives the current parade board is its quest for corporate dollars. Lombard Street has less twists and turns than its process to name parade grand marshals. Its actions are about shame. It's another example in the board's pattern of disrespect.

I saw this lack of respect two years ago. In 1998, judges were told to report to a viewing area. If nothing else, they were told there would be a place to sit. No such luck. There was no viewing area and we were told to stand on the street car island at Montgomery and Market.

Last year, it was just as bad. They gave us chairs but little else. Material, including the parade lineup, was never given to the judges. The judges of the 1999 parade were treated as an inconvenience.

Through the years, I'm proud to have worked with Bob Cramer, Rikki Streicher, and Larry Eppinette to create some standards for those invited to be judges. It is no accident that Hector Caceres, Charlotte Coleman, Emmepres Ginger, Anita, Donna Sachet and, of course, the Widow Norton, are among those who have judged our community's parade.

Many of these judges created the history of our community. It is a history you won't find in Teddy Witherington's 300-page Pride magazine. Gilbert Baker is respected enough to be asked to create a mile-long rainbow flag in New York. In San Francisco, this alleged "official" magazine seems have forgotten the creator of the rainbow flag even exists.

The "official" magazine for San Francisco Pride is not about gay liberation and I will tell you it is definitely not about me. In his magazine he writes about "The Power of Freedom." Should we be surprised to learn he defines freedom only as it relates to money?

I served on that board for 14 years since 1980. I have seen divisions, fights, and petty crap and I've

seen the best reflection of our community in the world. This current board of directors has become obsessed with goals that are selfish, and that marginalize the participation of the full community.

Teddy Witherington, like others on the board he serves, has forgotten more than Gilbert Baker. They forgot about the struggle for liberation. Most outrageous, they see the hundreds of thousands of us as pawns in their money game.

They don't seem to comprehend our community's right to be respected. It wasn't given to us. It was earned. Until they understand that, their view of gay pride will be nothing but a hollow and transparent grab for money. In my view these people are a disgrace.

Hydie Downard
Oakland, California

Waste of trees

I just happened to see the stacks of this year's "Pride Guide" on the street today. What an egregious waste of trees. Not only was the content utterly homogenized and banal, but the volume and weight of this product was an assault on our environment. Our movement is being sold as a market niche.

Is being gay (in my case) a reason to be "proud"? I say no. Am I proud to drink Bud Light, ride in BMWs or any other product being pimped to us? No.

I gather that this publication is being distributed to each major Pride city, thus there is little San Francisco specific content.

If this is the result of having a professional, highly paid-executive, then I say "we wuz took!"

Used to be, June was about freedom and liberation. Now it is a reason to celebrate consumptive excess.

I think that this year's "Pride Guide" is an abomination. I propose that we all take those superfluous copies of this guide and deposit them at the front of Fox Plaza, at 1390 Market Street, home of the Parade Committee. It's time to tell the opportunists in the parade organization to get back to their roots.

Vince Quackenbush
San Francisco

Details left out of story

What meeting was Terry Beswick at? It obviously was not the one I attended at 7:30 to 10 p.m. at the Page Street Public Library on May 31 ["David Rasnick: The dissident Mbeki called," June 8].

Perhaps if reporters actually stayed for the duration of meetings they could intelligently and intelligibly report the goings on. Dr. Rasnick did, indeed, discuss the advice given to South African President Mbeki as well as the goings on at the panel discussions of the international team of scientists Mbeki has assembled to advise him on what to do about the AIDS epidemic in his nation.

There were a great many details the reporter left out in his spree of insulting Rasnick and the dissident movement. Why?

HEAL-SF is not ACT UP/SF. We are an educational and support organization for people who do not believe blindly that toxic experimental drugs are the best treatment course for asymptomatic people with HIV. You might actually come to our meetings and stay sometime and meet the dozens of long-term, no-med survivors. We do not bother attempting to discuss science with dogmatists and career clingers-on. Mr. Beswick did not notice our security people because they are rather casual, as we have never had any kind of interruption or demonstration at our monthly meetings. People come, they listen to the speakers, ask questions, meet people, ask more questions, and make decisions based on all the information out there about HIV and AIDS, not just that which people whom make careers off HIV and AIDS have filtered out.

Oh, by the way, Mr. Beswick's characterization of Dr. Rasnick: "Rasnick complained bitterly about the bias against his theories exhibited by mainstream journalists, who still don't call him enough. 'Do they interview me, or Duesberg?' he demanded, snarling. 'No, they interview Martin Delaney [Project Inform's founding director], that 'world authority' on retroviruses and protease inhibitors and clinical trials.'"

This was taken out of context. Dr. Rasnick was remarking on how reporters have a tendency to claim that they have attempted to contact him before writing a story not unlike the biased and purposely deceptive stories the B.A.R. has a tendency to publish. His remarks included the fact that he is easily contacted. After all, if a South African president can contact him easily on his cell phone, any impartial, unbiased reporter should be able to as well, right? You might try some journalism sometime. It involves laying aside prejudice and preconception and judgment long enough to actually hear what people have to say.

Todd Phillips, MCP
HEAL-San Francisco

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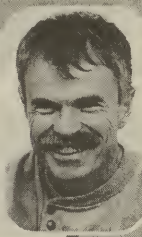
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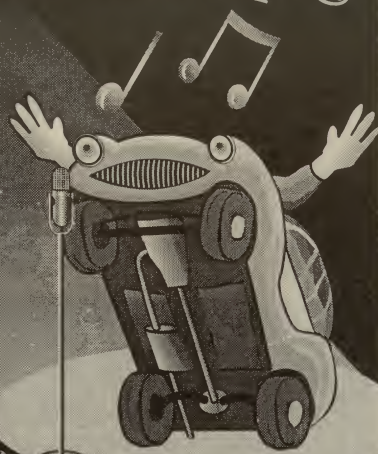
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Rants at coverage

Regarding "Emerging bone trouble from HIV treatment?" by David Rasnick: The dissident Mbeki called "HIV prevention for positives kicks off Sat." and "Who will hold ACT UP/SF accountable?" (Mailstrom) in the June 8 issue.

1) "Emerging bone trouble from HIV treatment" by Jeff Getty. This story has been reported for months now in HIV/AIDS realist dissident newspapers and on their Web sites. Nice to see the pharmaceutical ad laden B.A.R. is finally catching up.

2) "David Rasnick: The dissident Mbeki called," by Terry Beswick. Another piece of slanted and biased journalism by a writer who didn't even stay the full two hours.

3) "HIV prevention for positives kicks off Sat." by Katie Szymanski. If Ms. Szymanski, Stop AIDS Project and the B.A.R. realized that there is a significant group of HIV-positive gay men and PWAs living longer, healthier and happier lives by not taking AZT and protease inhibitors would they get article space or be reported to the military run CDC, WHO, and NIH?

4) The letter, "Who will hold ACT UP/SF accountable?" by Steve Weller. Great vocabulary and a big thank you for pointing out that AZT and protease inhibitors are toxic. Next time you're in a bookstore, look at page 29 of *What if Everything You Thought You Knew About AIDS Was Wrong* by Christine Maggiore. See the AZT label? It explicitly states, "Toxic. Toxic by inhalation, in contact with skin and if swallowed. ..."

Drug companies also admit in their package inserts that "long term studies" on most of the protease inhibitors (or AZT) "were never done" or were stopped because people were dying and/or experiencing excruciating, painful and horrendous side effects. You can verify this in past issues of the B.A.R. by reading HIV Perspective column or the obituaries for acknowledgment of this information. Funny how these two columns always seem to run side by side.

Adult gay men are also told how we should be having sex. If we make a decision not to put the condom on, we're then spurned and called hateful names. Our government and our very own community are chipping away at our intimate personal rights by telling us what is the "right" and "wrong" way to have sex. Essentially, gay men have become psychologically bankrupt and I do not know how any sensible person can question why ACT UP/SF is so angry.

Steven D. Keller
San Francisco

HIVers and ad campaign

We appreciate the B.A.R. writing a short piece on the new SF Health Department-sponsored HIV prevention campaign - HIV Stops With Me [HIV-positives sought for ad campaign, June 1]. It's great when the media helps get these messages out to our community. However, the author, Katie Szymanski, made some bizarre assumptions that need to be corrected.

The HIV Stops With Me campaign is all about HIV-positive gay/bi men and transgenders providing leadership around prevention. The suggestion that this campaign is blaming people who are positive for transmitting the virus is ridiculous. And the idea that we are advocating "either celibacy or wrapping people head-to-toe in latex" is a total fabrication.

People who are HIV-positive do have a critical role to play in ending the epidemic. Our campaign is intended to support their constructive and life-affirming efforts. It's too bad the B.A.R. has to find a way to put a negative spin on this - we think people are tired of that kind of carping. Those who want to be part of the solution can visit the campaign Web site: www.hivstopswithme.org

Les Pappas, President
Better World Advertising
San Francisco

SFAF's offensive policy

I find the SFAF's policy on attending board meetings to be marginalizing and offensive.

Kevin P. Nuttall, Lighthouse Group
Asheville, North Carolina

SFAF not perfect, but ...

I am writing in response to your editorial ["Another year, another raise," May 25] which was critical of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, the board of directors, Board Chair Lonnie Payne, and Executive Director Pat Christen. I am writing as a new resident of San Francisco, as a gay man who has lost beloved friends to the epidemic, and as a SFAF volunteer who is not personally acquainted with either Lonnie Payne or Pat Christen.

I am impressed with the breadth of services offered by SFAF. SFAF's *Bulletin of Experimental Treatments for AIDS* is an outstanding educational resource. I am not an expert on SFAF programs and it may be that the foundation needs to strengthen its housing programs and to open its decision-making process more to community scrutiny. But you can engage in debate on these issues without attacking the board as "spineless" and as "out of touch" with people living with HIV/AIDS.

How much do you know about Lonnie Payne? I learned some things about him in the most recent issue of SFAF's *OutReach*. Lonnie is a gay African American

man who has been living with HIV for more than 14 years. Living with HIV/AIDS is a very real experience to him everyday. At the recent SFAF leadership awards dinner, Lonnie Payne expressed his anger at those who say that HIV does not cause AIDS and that AIDS is over. In this regard, he has much in common with the editorial opinions of this newspaper. Lonnie's words - and his life - inspire me to work harder and to maintain hope in battling the pandemic.

Pat Christen also inspired me with her words at the dinner. She recalled the early 1980s in San Francisco when this community was scared and isolated but leaders here successfully made the case that HIV/AIDS was a concern for the nation. She challenged us all with these words: "If we have any integrity, we must now make the same case for the world. We must be willing to play a forceful role in ending the global pandemic as well as our local epidemic." Pat Christen is an important leader in our community. Few people could have survived, as she has, for 10 years as head of SFAF with the stress, pressure, and unrelenting criticism that go with the job.

I am not saying that the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, its board, Lonnie Payne, or Pat Christen are perfect. We all need to be challenged to be better by the media, community activists, peers, family, friends, lovers, etc. But the challenges issued should be constructive rather than personal. Until last year, I lived in Kansas City where the community is small, supportive, and quite effective. Since moving to San Francisco I have marveled at what is available to me here as a gay man, but I have also been disappointed to see the bitter and unnecessary infighting in our community. Let's debate the issues, disagree when we must, but let's also maintain fundamental respect for each other as human beings.

Rich Kowalewski
San Francisco

SFAF board chair responds

The *Bay Area Reporter* is entitled to disagree with the San Francisco AIDS Foundation's compensation policy. However that does not give you license to misrepresent facts or to publish outright myths about the foundation.

As you well know, the "cut" in Latino services cited in your recent editorial ["Another year, another raise," May 25] involved the transfer of a case management services contract by the city's AIDS Office to other organizations, including the Instituto de La Raza and the Mission Neighborhood Health Center. Following the transfer, clients continued to receive the same case management services they had previously. Not a single individual lost services. Even after the transfer, the Latino Support Group remained at SFAF, where that group continues to meet each week.

It might better serve the Latino community if you reported that virtually all SFAF services and publications are available in Spanish, that Latinos represent 13 percent of those receiving direct services from SFAF, or that our Web site contains one of the most comprehensive Spanish-language sources of information about HIV and AIDS available in the United States. All this attests to our commitment to serving the Latino community. Though the B.A.R. is aware of these activities, you consistently choose not to report them.

Your claims regarding our housing programs are equally misinformed. Housing, SFAF's single largest program, grew by more than 32 percent in the past year, from \$3.4 million to \$4.5 million. We have also played a leading role in advocating for increased HIV housing funding at both the federal and state levels.

Your description of our \$7 million reserve fund is also mistaken. Our Board of Directors mandates an operating reserve that cannot be used to pay normal operating expenses. However, as reported on our 990 tax returns, these funds totaled \$2,652,789.

The portrayal of this organization as secretive is inaccurate. Our 990s, among a host of other data about our programs, services and financing, are posted on our Web site. As to the registration requirement to attend our public meetings, as you must know from your own reporting there are violent individuals in our community and foundation staff and guests have frequently been their targets. The registration is a security matter to protect clients, staff, volunteers, and other guests attending our meetings from physically and verbally abusive individuals.

SFAF's continued expansion of services and financial stability speaks eloquently to this being a well-managed organization. That SFAF remains strong at a time when so many other AIDS service organizations are cutting back services owing to financial instability serves to underline this point.

You may disagree with this assessment, however, it would be more ethical and professional to do so based on a full airing of the facts rather than a select few bits of information that are at best misleading.

Lonnie Payne, Board Chair
San Francisco AIDS Foundation

[Editor's note: The B.A.R.'s reference to a "reserve fund" was drawn from SFAF's 990, Line 21, "Net assets or fund balances at end of year: \$7,330,379." SFAF's reference to a "reserve fund" is from line 54, "Investments - securities: \$2,652,789."]

POLITICS

Pros predict eventual Gore victory

by Wayne Friday

Hoping to quiet complaints from Democratic Party insiders that Vice President Al Gore's campaign has been adrift since the heated primary battles ended, the Democratic National Committee has launched a 15-state, \$25 million advertising campaign that is designed not only to regain the campaign initiative against Texas Republican Governor **George W. Bush**, but will focus on Gore's effort on hot-button issues like Social Security, Medicare and prescription drug coverage, to list only a few issues.

The ad campaign will continue right up until a couple of weeks before the Democratic National Convention opens in Los Angeles on August 14 and as the confab nears, the ads likely will become more biographical about Gore.

Though most national polls show Bush, the expected GOP nominee, with a slight lead over Gore — last week's respected Zogby/Reuters Poll showed Bush leading by a single point, 42 to 41 percent; a month ago Bush led by four points — some now feel that the Gore campaign is once again gaining momentum, albeit very slowly, and indeed, a half dozen well-known political scientists who have honed and polished the art of election forecasting, recently predicted that Gore will actually win comfortably in November.

With five months until the November 7 election, some election forecasters are saying that Gore will win with 53 to 60 percent of the votes cast on Election Day. These academic prognosticators have an amazingly good record of predicting results months in advance of the election, and nearly all say that the fact that Bush now is in the lead means nothing, or as **Thomas Mann** of the Brookings Institution, who has written extensively about election forecasting put it, "polls this early in the campaign have a relatively low correlation with the fall vote." Others who have correctly predicted presidential elections in the past and who are now predicting a Gore win are **Michael Lewis-Beck** of the University of Iowa, who in July 1996 predicted **Bill Clinton** would defeat **Bob Dole** four months later with 54.8 percent of the two-party vote (Clinton actually won with 54.7 percent); **Thomas Holbrook**, a professor at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee; **Christopher Wlezien** of the University of Houston (in 1988 he predicted then-Vice President **George Bush**'s vote within six-tenths of one percent and in 1996 he predicted Clinton's win within one-tenth of one percent); **Alan I. Abramowitz** of Emory University, who predicts Gore will win with 53 or 54 percent of the two-party total in November; and **James E. Campbell** of the University of Buffalo.

Campbell and Holbrook have written books on the ability to predict elections months in advance of the actual vote. A recent story in the *Washington Post* pointed out the model these fore-

casters use in predicting elections results months in advance of the election: "each has his own elaborate mathematical model, but they share common ingredients: a measurement of the health of the economy and poll findings on the public's political views; some leave it at that, but add other factors, such as how Americans are feeling about their personal economic situations. And different forecasting models use different measurements of the economy and of public opinion, taken at different times from about now through Labor Day."

The *Post* further noted that all of them use elaborate higher mathematics to come up with predictions of the share of the two-party vote that the candidate of the incumbent party will receive in November. Five of the best known forecasters (measured

by their records) say that as of today, Gore can be expected to win the November 7 election, and all agreed that third-party candidates have no real impact on their models, and history seems to bear them out on this. All of the prognosticators base their predictions on assuming nothing "terribly out of the ordinary" happens and that both major party candidates will perform well between now and Election Day.

Quite naturally, the early predictions of these political scientists bring different reactions from the camps of Democrat Gore and Republican Bush. **Samuel Popkin**, a political scientist working on the Gore campaign, said "this is one of the reasons the campaign feels good about the election," while **Fred Steeper**, Bush's pollster, said the forecasts "are probably wrong, and Bush will win."

To be sure, it's still a long time from June till November.

Politics and people

The Alice B. Toklas Lesbian & Gay Democratic Club will hold its annual pre-Pride Parade breakfast on Sunday, June 25 at the Hyatt Regency Embarcadero with spe-



Assemblywoman Carole Migden

cial guests Assemblywoman **Carole Migden**, Assemblywoman and state Senate candidate **Sheila Kuehl**, San Diego Councilwoman and Assembly candidate **Christine Kehoe**, and L.A. Councilwoman and Assembly candidate **Jackie Goldberg** — 8:30 a.m., \$35, 241-9913 for info.

Insurance Commissioner **Chuck Quackenbush**'s four-day testimony in front of lawmakers last week in Sacramento only hurt himself and seemingly fast-for-

warded what most think will be his eventual exit from the statewide post. Democratic and Republican legislators alike now say they see a portrait of incompetence on Quackenbush's behalf of corrupt officials who ran a political operation out of his office. Even GOP Assemblyman **Tom McClintock** (Northridge), the senior Republican on the Assembly Insurance Committee, said last week that "there is growing evidence that the commissioner was involved in decisions" of an elaborate scheme that directed earthquake settlement funds to non-profit foundations and then funneled the money into promotions featuring Quackenbush, and "it is now his duty to refute the evidence," McClintock added. State Senator **Jackie Speier** (D-San Mateo) the chair of the Senate Insurance Committee, which is overseeing the hearings, was even more blunt: "He can dig in his heels and attempt the Clinton stance, he can resign a la [Richard] Nixon, or he can be impeached." Sacramento Republicans, who once saw Quackenbush as a rising GOP political star, now see the beleaguered commissioner as an outcast with few defenders even within his own party, and most are predicting he will not last out his term.

But on this one: Hoping to preserve and perpetuate an "upbeat tone" that seems to have served them well over the past couple of months, advisers to Texas Governor George W. Bush say they are fashioning a Republican National Convention in Philadelphia (July 31-August 3) that will emphasize policy over partisan vitriol and may even abandon the practice of devoting one night of the confab to an attack on Al Gore and the Democratic Party.

And **Patrick Buchanan**, the anti-gay Reform Party presidential hopeful, says he fully supports efforts of the Delaware Reform Party chairman, **William Shields**, who is attempting to rid the party of its openly gay national secretary, former San Franciscan **Jim Mangia**. Shields sent e-mails to Reform Party members saying "I am interested in a resolution at the [August 10-13 Long Beach] convention to remove Jim Mangia from any leadership role in this party and to physically eject him, along with any trash or dangerous biological waste that may have found its way on to the convention floor" ("Biological waste"? And they call this the Reform Party?)

The New York U.S. Senate race really heating up. Most gay and lesbian political activists there are deeply involved in **Hillary Rodham Clinton**'s campaign despite a fact that **Rick Lazio**'s campaign would rather forget: he was the guy whose youthful good looks got him named the most attractive House member by a group of gay congressional staffers a few years back. Lazio, who is known in the NYC tabloids as "Lazio Lite," has become the butt of late night television barbs. CBS-TV's **David Letterman**: "Lazio looks like a guy who couldn't get past the \$500 question on *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire*?"

And one of the nation's closest watched U.S. Senate primary races ended last week in New Jersey

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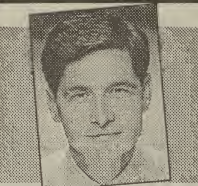
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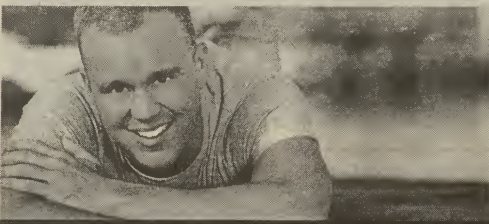


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Excuses, excuses: When Democrats do bad things

by Dale Carpenter

A governor criminalizes gay sex, yet gay leaders say nothing. An elected official backs anti-gay marriage legislation, yet a gay group says he's blameless. Another governor vetoes legislation giving gay employees the right to take time off from work to care for a sick lover, yet the state's gay lobbying organization yawns.

Welcome, my friends, to the world of the Democratic double standard.

Under it, a Republican who even hints at doing something that might adversely affect a gay person somewhere is instantly denounced as a homophobic hate-monger. When a Democrat does much the same thing? Well, nobody's perfect.

Consider former Texas Governor Ann Richards. To the gay political establishment in Texas, the colorful Democrat is a saint. Yet despite Richards's ability to wow gay audiences at black-tie dinners with her winning smile and folksy accent, her legislative legacy is darkly anti-gay. It's her signature you'll find on the state's anti-gay sodomy law, after all, one of only a handful in the entire country that specifically targets gay sex. Two men in Houston were recently prosecuted for violating Richards's law in a private home. (Note: a state appeals court has

held the law unconstitutional.)

If George W. Bush had signed such a hideous law, gay activists would have blockaded every road between the Alamo and the Astrodome in protest. Yet the excuse factory rolls into production for Richards. Despite the fact that she did nothing to lobby the Legislature to defeat it, gay advocates explain she was forced to sign the law because it was part of a larger overhaul of the criminal code. Despite the fact that Democrats controlled both houses of the Texas Legislature at the time, they complain it was really the Republicans' fault.

Another example of this blame-the-GOP defense came recently from the Stonewall Democrats. In a press release extolling the Clinton-Gore administration, the group excused Clinton and Gore's support of the Defense of Marriage Act by arguing that the congressional Republicans, under the leadership of Newt Gingrich, made them do it. "Sure, Clinton signed the bill, but only in a political reality created by Republicans," huffed Stonewall.

Never mind that Clinton publicly agreed to sign DOMA before it was even drafted, much less introduced in Congress. Never mind that after Clinton signed DOMA, he and Gore trumpeted their support of the measure in campaign ads on Christian radio stations.

Did Gingrich make them do that, too?

When blaming Republicans won't fly, some gay groups try minimizing the importance of the Democratic betrayal. Witness their supine reaction to California Governor Gray Davis's recent rejection of a domestic partners bill.

Because Democrat Davis and most officeholders of both parties oppose same-sex marriage, gay Californians are left trying to approximate the benefits of marriage by creating a domestic partnership system that confers a series of limited rights to gay couples.

Last year, Davis approved a state-sanctioned registry for same-sex couples that grants no benefits to them other than the right to visit a partner in the hospital. To give the system some content, legislators have subsequently proposed a series of piecemeal bills that would accord domestic partners a few of the privileges of marriage.

One such proposal, which passed the California Legislature and went to Davis for his signature in May, would have expanded the state's family medical leave law to allow an employee to take unpaid time to care for an ailing domestic partner — just as the employee could do for a spouse.

Davis vetoed the bill. In a statement, he criticized it for going "far beyond what any other state has permitted to a relationship outside the family," underlining the words "outside the family."

I had to read that twice to make sure it wasn't a position paper from the Family Research Council. Outside the family? What are our families, potted plants?

It wasn't Davis's first foray into anti-gay territory. Earlier this year, he suggested that he might demand the resignations of judges he appoints if they don't share his opposition to gay marriage.

There are sound reasons to oppose employer mandates like a family leave law: they're expensive for business and therefore costly to consumers and employees alike. But there are no good non-homophobic reasons to support family leave requirements for married couples (as Davis does) and oppose them for gay couples (as Davis's veto implies he does).

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MEDIA ALERT

20/20 on reparative therapy

compiled by GLAAD

The May 31 edition of 20/20 ran a segment on reparative therapy, the controversial process that proponents claim can change unhappy homosexuals into happy heterosexuals. "Desperate to Change" focused on the religion-based ex-gay group Love in Action, its leaders, and the men that live together in a communal setting while they go through the therapy.

Reporter Peggy Wehmeyer is often skeptical about the therapy and challenges what she is told. When a doctor at Love in Action puts homosexuality on the same level as murder and rape, she calls him on the disparity. She also includes counterpoints from a therapist opposed to reparative therapy and interviews an ex-ex-gay man who reports that the therapy did not work, even though he completed the program.

Problematic in the segment though, was the lack of any positive gay male images. The ex-ex gay man remains anonymous, shown only in shadow. This perpetuates an image of shame that could have been avoided by using an out and proud gay man. The only other image of gay men is one of men gyrating under flashing lights in a disco, as if that is all being gay is about.

While 20/20 deserves acknowledgment for not presenting a white-washed piece on reparative therapy, the producers of this segment need to be reminded that balance is of the utmost importance in a show where many of the interviewees speak of homosexuality as a sickness to be cured. Images of gay athletes, gay businessmen and the like would have gone a long way to give a more accurate picture of gay men, one that balanced the one-sided negative self-reported image put forth by the ex-gays.

Contact Elizabeth Osisek, Producer, 20/20 Wednesday, ABC Television Network, 147 Columbus Avenue, New York, NY 10023-5900; fax: (212) 456-2381; e-mail: 2020@abcnews.com.

Salon in uniform

This week, online magazine Salon is offering a large package piece on gays in the military. "The Cost of the Closet: A Salon special report on the real-life personal impact of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'" examines the issue from several different angles.

The majority of the pieces focus on four male army captains and how they struggle with trying to maintain military careers while also trying to live their lives as gay men. Writer Dave Cullen brings forward many points that those outside of the military may not be aware of, such as how bachelor captains rarely, if ever, are promoted to be generals, and a "marriage ceiling" that limits deserv-

ing gay men from moving up in rank.

Cullen also covers how much relationships are affected by DADT. Michelle Benecke, co-executive director of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN), is quoted: "Relationships are already difficult in the military. Even married heterosexuals who enjoy the full benefit of all the military support services - in recognition that deployments and military life can be so stressful for a relationship - have difficulty making it. Add to that the need to hide your relationship every hour of every day while you're at work - it makes it extraordinarily difficult to have a healthy relationship over time."

Continuing with the personal theme, "Brett," one of the captains, describes how particularly depressing it is for gay men in a serious relationship when arriving home after deployment or training. "All the wives are out there screaming, 'Oh, honey!' and the kids are running up to them as they get off the planes or the buses," Brett says.

An article by Fiona Morgan, "Inside a lesbian 'witch-hunt,'" covers how lesbians are disproportionately affected by the policy - while only 14 percent of military personnel are women, 31 percent of DADT discharges are lesbians.

Contact Gary Kamiya, Vice President of Content/Executive Editor, Salon.com, 22 4th Street,

16th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94103; fax: (415) 645-9204; e-mail kamiya@salon.com. ▼

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Driven crazy?

by Jane Warner

Castro and 24th, June 10, 12:15 p.m.: Two men driving in their Ford Mustang convertible on Castro noticed a red Isuzu SUV tailgating and honking. When they reached 24th and Castro, the driver of the SUV got up and ran to their car screaming, "What is your fucking problem? Get out of the car." When the men refused, the suspect reached over and slapped the driver in the forehead. The suspect—described as a white male, 30 years old, 5 feet 10 inches tall, weighing 180 pounds, and wearing a brown leather hat and T-shirt and shorts—got back into his SUV and continued northbound on Castro. The victims told police they were stunned and had no idea what prompted the attack.

June showers

Fronting the Transfer bar, 198 Church Street, June 9, 9:45 p.m.: Police responded to the Transfer after a report of a fight outside the bar. Responding officers met with a man who told them he parked his motorcycle on the corner of Church and Market and went into the Transfer to have a drink. When he came out, he found his ex-boyfriend urinating on his motorcycle. A scuffle ensued and the suspect, described as a white male, 40 years old, 6 feet

tall, and weighing 170 pounds and known only as "Steve," left in an unknown direction.

Public drinking

Sanchez and 16th, June 4, 1:50 a.m.: A man went to his parked car and found a strange man sitting in the driver's seat. The suspect jumped out and the owner hit him over the head with a beer bottle. Both men exchanged blows until the thief—described as an Hispanic male, 25-30 years old, 5 feet 8 inches tall, weighing 200 pounds, wearing a gray sweatshirt over a burgundy T-shirt—got into a silver Ford Tau-

rus and drove southbound on Sanchez. Upon closer inspection the victim noticed his vehicle's door lock punched, the ignition core pulled away from the steering column, and the car's \$400 Sony stereo missing.

(Stuffed) animal abuse

Uncle Bert's bar, 4086 18th Street, 1:45 p.m.: A patron of the bar went on a rampage after losing a game of pool. The man beat the teddy bear vending machine with a cue stick and hurled a bar stool through the front window. He then took off southbound on Castro with the manager following him. The manager convinced the man to return to the bar, where they met with police. The man agreed to pay for damages and in exchange no charges were filed. ▼

Prop. 21 returns to court

by Katie Szymanski

Following the state Supreme Court's refusal to hear a lawsuit against Proposition 21, the American Civil Liberties Union filed another challenge to the recently passed ballot initiative, this time in San Francisco Superior Court.

The lawsuit—filed last Wednesday June 7 on behalf of the League of Women Voters, Children's Advocacy Institute, and Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth—challenges Proposition 21 on the grounds that it violates the single-subject rule of ballot initiatives by altering juvenile laws, the adult penal code, gang provisions, and even the three-strikes law. Voters were never told of all the changes, nor were they informed that a "yes" vote meant more than jailing a violent criminal; under Proposition 21 a kid (or adult) can be sentenced to life in prison for spray painting a stop sign.

"The hackers of this ballot measure quickly tucked in provisions amending prior voted-approved initiatives that had nothing to do with the issues that voters were led to believe they were deciding on March 7," said Steven Mayer, a partner with San Francisco's Howard, Rice, Canady, Falk

& Rabkin law firm and co-counsel with the ACLU.

The lawsuit also alleges that Proposition 21 violates the California Elections Code by containing text different than the initiative circulated by petition to qualify the measure for the ballot.

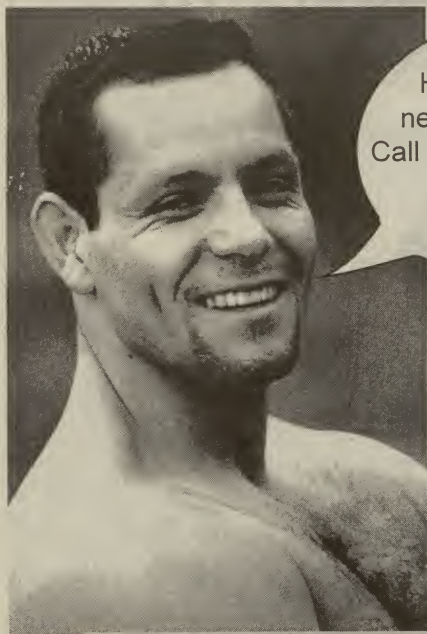
Defendants named in the legal brief are Governor Gray Davis, Attorney General Bill Lockyer, and San Francisco District Attorney Terence Hallinan. Hallinan's office has not enforced Proposition 21, but the suit must name the district attorney within the court's district. ▼

Clarification

Regarding "It's about free admission," in the June 8 Bay Area Reporter. Pride is free to the public but requests a \$3 donation. Pride volunteers, in exchange for their time, receive the best seats in the house for the parade, food and beverages, a T-shirt and pin, and an invitation to the volunteer appreciation party. The volunteer training dates listed in last week's Bay Area Reporter are for contingent monitor and safety monitor training only; other positions are trained through literature. For more information on volunteer training to be a contingent or safety monitor, call Brian Probst at (415) 864-0831. ▼

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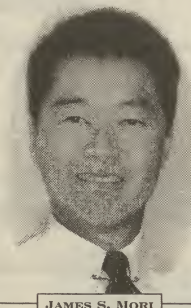
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San Diego police have Pride tear gas suspect, witness sought

by Dan Aiello

San Diego police Sergeant Wayne Spees is proud of the hard work the department's Western Division has done in solving the biggest "who dunnit" case of 1999. In fact, he believes they've solved last year's Gay Pride Parade tear gas attack. Now, if only he and his fellow investigators could find, out of the more than 100,000 attendees, a single witness.

The tear gas dispersed minutes after San Diego's 1999 Pride Parade began, near the reviewing stand at Tenth and University streets and within feet of a contingent of gay and lesbian families, many of whom had toddlers and infants marching in the parade. Although the tear gas caused a potentially fatal panic when marchers and spectators fled the noxious fumes, and sent many to the first aid tents for treatment, the attack proved to be only a momentary disruption and the parade resumed minutes later.

"It was set off between the reviewing stand and 9th Avenue, where the protesters were," Spees

said of the incident last July. "Someone standing in that area last year would have seen him. We do have a suspect, but he hasn't been formally charged yet," said Spees. "We need someone who places this guy there. Someone who saw him actually set the thing off."

San Diego Police Department investigators have compiled "a lot" of evidence against this individual, according to Lieutenant Joyce Edgar. The individual is reportedly a white male and rumored to be a "young skinhead, who probably acted alone," according to an unnamed San Diego Pride staff member. But amazingly, out of the more than 100,000 attendees, the department has not, to date, heard from a single individual who actually saw the suspect with the tear gas canister, either before or during the attack.

"We did get a lot of people who called in, but no one who actually witnessed it," said Spees. "I think there are people who saw this guy actually do this, possibly someone from out of town." Spees is hoping to reach that one witness — of the many who came to San Diego's parade from Los Angeles, Orange County and San Francisco — who

can positively identify the suspect. "Right now, I don't think they even know how much we need their help," he said, referring to the witness or witnesses Spees is sure exists.

There remains a \$16,000 reward collected by San Diego's LGBT community in the days following the July attack for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible. "That money would still be available," said Nicole Murray-Ramirez, who organized the reward effort. Bourbon Street's Tom Felkner was just one of many in the community who pledged \$1,000 to the fund. "We're still committed to the reward," Felkner said.

"Hopefully, if any witness who's from out of town returns this year, they'll hear we're looking for them," said Spees. They'll also learn of the \$16,000 reward the local LGBT community wants to give them to see convicted the individual or individuals responsible for this criminal attack.

This year's San Diego Pride festivities are scheduled for July 21-23. ▼

Anyone who witnessed the incident is encouraged to contact Sergeant Wayne Spees at (619) 692-4802.

have the opportunity to participate in the annual Dyke March. ▼

SomArts is located at 934 Brannan St. The conference runs from 5-9 p.m. on June 23 and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on June 24 at the Harvey Milk Academy, 4235 19th St. Tickets are \$50/\$40 members with some scholarships available. To register or volunteer, call (415) 788-6118. For more info, visit www.queerculturalcenter.org/Pages/QFestival2k/LVA.html and www.lesbianarts.org.

Lesbian artists

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evening's plenary panel will feature artist-activists Barbara Hammer, Celia Herrera Rodriguez, and Huleah J. Tsinhnahjinnie. Saturday's workshops will be devoted to topics ranging from lesbian history, to art as a business, to goddess mythology, to a hands-on power tools class. Other topics include curating, working with found objects, and lesbians in art history. At the conclusion of the conference next Saturday afternoon, attendees will

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Los Angeles Pride celebrates 30 years – with some SF help

by Ed Walsh

A San Franciscan stole the show at West Hollywood's 30th annual Pride Parade last weekend.

Comedienne Margaret Cho ended the parade as its pinch-hitting celebrity grand marshal. Cho took the place of Judge Judy Sheindlin, better known as "Judge Judy" on the television show of the same name. The change had to be made because of a scheduling mistake by parade organizers.

Nobody seemed to mind. "We love you, Margaret!" was the most often heard phrase shouted from the crowd of an estimated 100,000 people who lined Santa Monica Boulevard. Although the parade lasted two and a half hours, the crowd hadn't lost any of its enthusiasm by the time Cho arrived, riding in a fire truck.

Cho also will be the San Francisco Pride Parade's celebrity grand marshal. She reassured her Northern California fans she's just warming up for San Francisco's big parade on June 25.



The "Dykes on Bikes" led the way at last weekend's 30th annual Pride Parade in West Hollywood.

"I'm practicing and I'm going to be perfect by the time I get back home," Cho told the *Bay Area Reporter* from her fire truck perch. "I don't have the same visceral connection here as I do with San Francisco, so it's really a lot more emotional for me there."

The parade's first honoree, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Captain Richard Odenthal, made his way in an open car near the start of the parade just after the "Dykes on Bikes" and a seniors' motorcycle contingent. Odenthal was the recipient of an award named for San Francisco's assassinated mayor, George Moscone. But the sign posted on the side of his car said "George Mascone Award." The misspelling also was in all the advance literature put out by the organization that runs the parade, Christopher Street West.

"I noticed it and a couple of other people did too," Odenthal told the *B.A.R.* "Someone came up to me and said 'Who's George Mascone?'"

The fact that the misspelling was not caught until the parade

punctuates what some say is a growing North-South gay divide. Parade volunteer James Taylor said he's noticed gays from Northern and Southern California don't mix as much as they used to. Taylor said he and many people he knew once routinely attended both parades.

"AIDS changed the whole thing," Taylor said. "A lot of people who used to do both died out."

The parade's community grand marshals were fashion critic Mr. Blackwell and his partner of 50 years, Robert Spencer. After their parade appearance, the senior couple watched from the reviewing stand. As he surveyed the scene, Blackwell shook his head in awe when he recalled how different things were 50 years ago.

"Nothing was public. We didn't dare," he told the *B.A.R.* "They used to crash night clubs. They would throw you in jail just for being in a gay bar." Blackwell added that he was arrested several times and had to hire a lawyer to fight the charges.

"Let's not look back," Blackwell

said. "Let's look forward. If we hold onto it, we'll never get rid of it."

Blackwell said he and his partner look forward to doing what they can to help the gay community. He has never attended San Francisco's Pride Parade but he said if invited, he would be delighted to participate in it and in any benefits to help the Bay Area's gay community.

The spirit of pride didn't soften the acid-tongued wit that has made Mr. Blackwell internationally famous. He once put Dianne Feinstein on his "worst-dressed list" and panned the big bows that were once her trademark. When asked whether Feinstein, the former San Francisco mayor and now U.S. senator, has improved, Blackwell quickly responded: "Oh, no. She looked better then and that was terrible. Now that she's a little older, I think it's a little late to make it look any good. It isn't the age, it's the mind. Why should she look matronly? I'm older than her but I don't look as old as her."

"This is not political. I'm criticizing the fashion. If I didn't like her, I'd never put her on my list." ▼

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Military investigators use drugs to get gays

by Bob Roehr

Military investigators are conducting undercover surveillance "in an apparent attempt to skirt the letter and intent of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,'" charged the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network. The surveillance ostensibly is about illegal drug use but it appears to target only gay bars, not straight ones, in Washington, D.C.

According to testimony at a military hearing, at least nine soldiers have faced drug-related charges as a result of this investigation. However, SLDN knows the identities of only two, and those are being held in confidence.

SLDN made the accusation in a June 2 letter from legal director Stacey Sobel to David L. Brant, director of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service for the Washington region. Copies were sent to numerous elected and Pentagon officials. Brant has agreed to meet with Sobel.

The SLDN letter quoted heavily from the transcript of an April 28 Article 32 administrative hearing. That preliminary step has led to initiation of court-martial proceedings against a sailor and a Marine.

At that hearing, NCIS Special Agent John P. O'Connor testified that they had been conducting the surveillance for "the past couple of years" at four bars or clubs whose clientele is primarily young gay men.

The standard practice was to have the agent, himself an attractive clean-cut man in his 20s, approach and strike up a conversation with someone whose haircut and demeanor suggested that he might be in the military. The conversation eventually would be steered toward where one might obtain illegal substances, such as ecstasy, and perhaps to life in the military.

"To our eye, it appears that NCIS is targeting gay bars," said Michelle Benecke, co-director of SLDN. At the hearing, "the only commercial establishments that the agent named were gay bars."

"The second reason why we believe this is a ruse to get around 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,' is that they appear to have no probable cause for investigating these servicemen." The men arrested have no prior record of drug use.

The fishing expedition also caught civilians up in the net. O'Connor said that NCIS "identified people in the past that - after we put the person under surveillance and followed them and found out who they were - they turned out not to be in the military." They would pass the information on to local law enforcement. That information included license plate numbers.

This "raises serious concerns that military criminal investigators are deliberately skirting the letter and intent" of DADT, wrote Sobel. "By targeting suspected gay service members at gay bars and nightclubs for disparate treatment, the surveillance operation chills service members' access to resources within the gay community."

"When I served in the military in the 1980s," Benecke recounted, "criminal investigative agents used to go down to the areas surrounding the gay bars and write down the license plate tags of every car with a decal [for entry to the base] and run them through the system and find out who was in the military."

"That was supposed to stop



SLDN's Michelle Benecke

under 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell.' The police specifically prohibits targeting gay establishments," she said. "It raises the question of who gave approval to this in the first place."

"It is bad enough that they are conducting surveillance on mili-

tary members. And it sends even more chills up my spine when you think about not just the government, but the military part of our government conducting that surveillance on civilians," said Benecke. "I think that brings home the intrusiveness of this."

SLDN has requested "a full written accounting and justification of all NCIS surveillance operations conducted against District of Columbia" gay bars, and a halt to all such operations. Benecke also wants to know "what has happened with the information gathered? Is it sitting in some database somewhere?"

Fighting back

David Sheldon is an attorney representing a Marine facing one charge of distribution of a narcotic, ecstasy. Sheldon was reluctant to discuss some aspects of the case because his client "is very afraid of being 'outed' and retaliated against."

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Barry Winchell repercussions continue

by Bob Roehr

Thirty congressmen have written the Pentagon urging Secretary of Defense William Cohen to take action against the commander of Fort Campbell, Kentucky. It is where Private First Class Barry Winchell was murdered last July in an anti-gay attack.

The letter, drafted on the initiative of Representative Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts) and sent last Wednesday, June 7, expressed faint praise for Pentagon efforts to address some of "the issues of harassment in the military based on perceived sexual orientation." But it primarily focused on the military's lack of responsiveness on the subject.

Among the specifics they cited were an inspector general's survey of anti-gay harassment and attitudes under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," a homophobic e-mail concerning Winchell's death sent by Marine Lieutenant Colonel Edward Melton at a base at Twenty-nine Palms, California; insufficient training on issues of DADT; and recoupment action taken against Tommie Lee Watkins Jr. The Pentagon has been unresponsive or tardy on all of them.

"With regard to accountability, we are still awaiting your response to a letter signed by 15 members of Congress in which we asked you to take action against those responsible for condoning and contributing to the anti-gay climate at Fort Campbell," the letter stated. It held base commander Major General Robert T. Clark responsible for that climate.

The congressmen noted that an inspector general's report on the incident that was due May 1 had been delayed for several months. "Relocating and promoting Major General Clark prior to the completion of this investigation would be wrong and undermine the Department's professed commitment to enforce the gays-in-the-military policy in a fair and legal manner," they wrote.

Clark is moving to Washington to become vice director for opera-

tions for the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Officers departing the Fort Campbell command typically are promoted, but that won't be happening just yet for Clark. Such senior level promotions are approved by the Senate and reports are that the Pentagon does not want to risk a controversial hearing at this time.

"The Army has sent a mixed message by appearing to reward Clark with a prestigious assignment," said C. Dixon Osburn, co-director of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network.

At a news conference on June 9, his last day as commander of Fort Campbell, Clark objected to "the way that I have been characterized by people who don't have a clue as to who I am as a human being or who I am as a commander."

He blamed "intense and distorted media attention" for helping to create a hypersensitive atmosphere in which dozens of gay soldiers have left Fort Campbell during the past year.

Six soldiers departed under DADT in the year prior to Winchell's murder. But in the succeeding 11 months, that number has soared to 120. Clark said that most occurred after a refresher course on the policy was given to the troops in December.

"One hundred and twenty discharges is an astounding figure from one base," said Michelle Bencke, co-director SLDN. Combat bases such as Fort Campbell average two to 21 such discharges a year, while training bases are higher. "But 120 from one base is off the chart."

Even while the investigation and prosecution of Winchell's murder was progressing, "attitudes about gays became more pronounced among the soldiers," reported the Nashville newspaper *The Tennessean*.

It wrote of a friend of Winchell's, Specialist Michael McCoy. He said that anti-gay graffiti began appearing on walls and he heard a rumor circulating that he was having an affair with another male soldier. Fearing for his safety, McCoy told his superiors he was gay and left the Army in December.

The anti-gay atmosphere does not seem to have abated. Joyce Arnold, executive director of the gay community center in Nashville, said their hotline received five calls from worried soldiers at Fort Campbell within the last month.

Bencke said that as recently as last week SLDN received a call from a soldier at Fort Campbell reporting "that their daily lives have not changed, that they still have to put up with anti-gay epithets and other harassment as a condition of serving."

She was hesitant to talk of specifics of the case because the soldier had not given them permission to go public with the information. But there was a tone in her voice that suggested that it involved something more than simple verbal harassment. Bencke said, "So many have left feeling that they had no recourse to protect their safety but to come out and be discharged." ▼

Ammiano in variety show

by Kate Szymanski

San Francisco Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammi-ano has more than one star performance lined up for June; five days before appearing as the Pride Parade's grand marshal, Ammi-ano will wear his other hat as the headlining comedian at "Viva Variety IX," which takes place this Tuesday, June 20 at Theatre Rhinoceros.

The 8 p.m. show is a benefit for

Spectrum, Marin County's center for Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, and Transgenders, and also stars actor Brian Yates, a cappella vocalists From Top to Bottom, performance artists Copper Wimmer and Peggy L'Eggs, and others.

Tickets are \$16 and available at A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro Street, or Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th Street at South Van Ness. For more information, call Make It So Productions at (415) 863-0741. ▼

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Gray Panthers present prison video, discussion

by Katie Szymanski

What goes on in California prisons?

The senior activist group the Gray Panthers has decided to address the topic at its next meeting. The panthers will show the award-winning video *Blind Eye to Justice* and present speaker Cynthia Chandler, director of the Women's Positive Legal Action Network this Tuesday, June 20, from 12:30-3 p.m. at the

Unitarian Church at Franklin and Geary streets in San Francisco.

"Not only in Rwanda, Kosovo, and Chechnya, but here at home prisoners are denied basic rights, medical care, thrown into solitary for months, and raped, and the California media currently can't even conduct prison interviews," said a statement issued by the Gray Panthers.

The meeting and presentation is free and open to all; call (415) 552-8800 for more information. ▼

Correction

In "District 6 candidate is running on progressive platform," in the June 8 Bay Area Reporter, it was reported that Gilbert Criswell said he had the endorsement of local activist and District 8 candidate Shawn O'Hearn. O'Hearn has stated that he is remaining neutral in the District 6 race. We regret the error.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Automakers

◀ page 1

Human Rights Campaign. "Never before have we seen virtually an entire industry, along with its leading union, announce domestic partner benefits simultaneously. And the fact that these are three of the largest companies in America, with hundreds of thousands of employees, demonstrates that domestic partner benefits are becoming a standard business practice."

The companies said they decided to extend health benefits to the same-sex domestic partners of

employees after agreeing to study the issue as part of new contracts made with the UAW last fall.

"By taking this step together, the Big Three have bolstered the traditional American value of equal pay for equal work, regardless of sexual orientation," Mills added. "Domestic partner benefits are one of the strongest signals a company can give to demonstrate that it values its lesbian and gay employees."

Sheehy agreed and said companies are realizing that in a competitive job market, offering domestic partner benefits is one way to attract and retain qualified employees.

More than 3,400 private and

public employers provide domestic partner benefits to their employees. With last week's announcement by the automakers, at least 97 Fortune 500 companies provide domestic partner benefits or have announced that they intend to, Mills stated. Since the beginning of the year, an average of nine employers have announced these benefits each week, according to HRC's WorkNet, which tracks such trends.

The American Association for Single People criticized the automakers' announcement, because the new domestic partner benefits agreement does not cover single people who are heterosexual. ▼

HIV causes AIDS

◀ page 1

overwhelming proof that HIV causes AIDS," reads an open letter to the community approved by the 22-member council last Thursday, June 8. "The HPPC believes that statements which deny that HIV causes AIDS have the potential to harm individuals by discouraging them from seeking accurate information and taking care of themselves based on that information."

The HPPC letter encourages people to research the facts for themselves on the pathogenesis of the disease, or how infection with HIV can lead to symptomatic disease and death.

"By leading to the destruction and/or functional impairment of cells of the immune system, notably CD4 [or T] cells, HIV progressively destroys the body's ability to fight infections and certain cancers," explains a fact sheet published on a National Institutes of Health Web site (www.niaid.nih.gov/factsheets/howhiv.htm).

Councilmember Sister Mary Mae Himm of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, a 15-year veteran of AIDS activism, said that he decided to propose that the HPPC take a formal stand on the issue after he witnessed first-hand the potential fallout from the dissidents' message.

"What prompted it was that a friend of mine seroconverted," Mae Himm told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "And as soon as he found out he was positive, he realized that he'd been listening to idiots, but it was too late to do anything about it."

"I thought it was time we did something about it."

Locally, other than David Rasnick and Peter Duesberg, the two Bay Area dissidents who were appointed to the South African panel, the most outspoken HIV denialist group has been ACT UP/San Francisco, which for several years has espoused members' beliefs that HIV prevention campaigns are nothing more than a government plot to thwart gay sex.

Most recently, the group raised the ire of AIDS organizations nationally when they mailed letters to all members of Congress urging the elimination of all federal funding for AIDS-related programs. Stating that "current services based on the erroneous hypothesis that HIV causes AIDS are fundamentally flawed," the letter encouraged congressmembers to vote against the upcoming reauthorization of funding for the Ryan White CARE Act and the AIDS Drug Assistance Program.

The HPPC vote was not unanimous, however, with three votes opposed and one abstention. Co-chair Maria Rinaldi voted against it, she said, because she was concerned that local HIV dissidents had not been given sufficient opportunity to present their case before the panel.

Rinaldi emphasized, however, that her opposition to the HPPC letter should not be interpreted to

suggest that she does not believe HIV causes AIDS.

"I do believe that," Rinaldi, director of HIV prevention at Instituto Familiar de la Raza, told the *B.A.R.* "But I voted no because they have never been given the possibility of presenting here."

Panelist Bill Barnes, former AIDS policy adviser to Mayor Willie Brown, also voted against Mae Himm's resolution, explaining that he was concerned that not enough public notice had been given that the issue would be debated last Thursday.

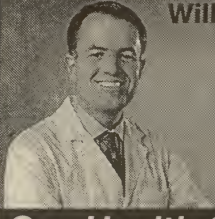
"When I received the agenda for the meeting in the mail it did not

include this item, nor did I receive a copy of the draft letter," he said.

"I firmly believe that HIV causes AIDS," Barnes added. "The reality is that every year about 500 gay and bisexual men become infected with HIV in San Francisco, and focusing an inordinate amount of time on the question of whether HIV causes AIDS is not productive for anyone."

Mae Himm, who is HIV-positive himself, said he tries to understand the motivation of gay men in the dissident camp.

"I think this is such a horrible time," he said, "and they want to have some control." ▼



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1. Skinner, W.F. (1994) The prevalence and demographic predictors of illicit and licit drug use among lesbians and gay men. *American Journal of Public Health*, 84(6).
2. Sisti, R. (1990) Cigarette Smoking Among gay and bisexual Men. *American Journal of Public Health* 80(12).
3. SAMHSA. (1995) National household survey on drug abuse. Main findings 1995. Rockville, MD: Department of Health and Human Services, Substance abuse and Mental Health Services.

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Fight AIDS with a license plate



Mike Elderkin, at podium, founder and president of Gay.com, was one of many speakers who helped unveil California's new vanity license plate that calls attention to fighting AIDS. The kickoff began last month in San Francisco and other cities throughout the state. Proceeds from the sale of these plates will provide a funding lifeline for AIDS research grants at the University of California and other nonprofit research institutions. The cost of the plate is \$50 over the regular registration fee. In order to qualify as a specialty state license plate, 5,000 applications are needed by December 31. For more information, call 1-877-8-4ACURE or check out www.dmv.ca.gov and click on "Personalized Plates."

CA Legislature increases AIDS spending by \$21 mil

by Terry Beswick

When Governor Gray Davis released his proposed budget last month for fiscal 2000-2001, AIDS advocates from throughout California were frustrated at the dearth of new spending to combat the disease—particularly in light of the state's anticipated \$12.3 billion surplus.

While Davis proposed spending \$2.4 million more for resistance testing to assist in the clinical management of HIV, even these funds were shifted from other HIV-related programs.

The Legislature, however, did not buy into the governor's flat-funding of AIDS programs. Proposed budgets passed by both houses included significant increases in AIDS spending, and last weekend a joint committee of the Assembly and Senate hashed out the details of the budget they plan to send to governor's desk.

On top of a base budget of \$320 million, including both state and federal funds, the Legislature's budget provides almost \$21 million in new spending.

"There are new infections and deaths from HIV every day," said Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco), a member of the Assembly and Senate Budget Conference Committee. "Until there is a cure, we need to expand our efforts to raise awareness, prevent new infections, and improve the quality of life of those living with HIV."

The Legislature is expected to approve the budget bill today, (Thursday June 15), and send it to Davis's desk.

Last week, the California HIV Advocacy Coalition, a statewide association of HIV/AIDS service organizations and advocates including the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, the AIDS Legal Referral Panel, and Project Inform, issued an urgent appeal for constituent letters to the governor urging him to approve the Legislature's AIDS budget numbers.

In addition to the \$2.4 million for resistance testing supported by the governor, the Legislature's proposed budget includes:

- \$2.8 million to create a non-name based reporting system to help communities more effectively plan for future HIV services as

well as maximize the state's ability to obtain federal HIV funding;

- \$8 million for HIV/AIDS prevention, education, and treatment programs targeting communities of color;

- \$1 million in increased funding for partner counseling and referral services;

- \$2.2 million for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program;

- \$1 million for the HIV organ transplant project at the UCSF Center for AIDS Prevention Studies;

- \$1.25 million for the UCSF AIDS Research Institute;

- \$500,000 for the National AIDS Memorial Grove in San Francisco;

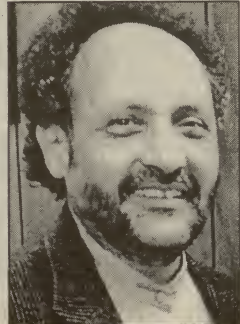
- \$400,000 for the AIDS Memorial Wall in Los Angeles;

- \$250,000 for the HIV/AIDS re-entry and empowerment project at New College of San Francisco. ▼

Governor Davis can be reached by mail at: State Capitol, Sacramento, California 95814; by e-mail at graydavis@governor.ca.gov; by fax at (916) 445-4633; and by phone at (916) 445-2841.

Benefit for Latina/o artists Saturday

by Terry Beswick



The late Hank Tavera

The first Hank Tavera Fund Benefit, an evening of "theater, music, dance, poetry, comedy, and fashion," will be held this Saturday, June 17 at the Mission Cultural Center at 2868 Mission Street at 24th Street. The benefit will open with a 6 p.m. reception, followed by performances beginning 7.

Part of the monthlong Queer Latina/o Arts Festival organized by QueLACO, tickets for Saturday's event start at \$15. Proceeds will go to the Hank Tavera Fund, named after the Latino community leader and longtime activist who died

from cancer earlier this year, and founded to support the work of local lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Latina/o artists.

QueLACO, the Queer Latina/o Arts Coalition, is a nonprofit organization "dedicated to promoting the arts within our diverse community. As an organization, we strive to gain voice, recognition, and prominence within the larger landscape of our vibrant arts world." ▼

For tickets or more information, call (415) 648-3702, or go to www.quelaco.org.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Medicare waiver for PWAs introduced in House

by Bob Roeher

People with an AIDS diagnosis would not have to wait to qualify for Social Security Disability Insurance or Medicare under a bill proposed in the U.S. House of Representatives by Congressman Tom Coburn (R-Okla-

Military

◀ page 15

He has obvious and understandably legitimate fears of being harassed. His personal safety is a concern."

Sheldon said that the Marine, who has served in the Marine Corps "for a number of years and has an excellent record," was approached by the NCIS agent at the gay club Velvet Nation in January. The agent "asked a lot of different questions regarding his sexuality," and eventually about ecstasy.

The Marine "believes, as I do, that he was set up and entrapped in this case," said Sheldon. "My client trusts the system and believes that he will be vindicated in the end." A preliminary hearing was held on April 28 and he was arraigned on June 2. The court-martial is set for August 13. Punishment ranges up to a bad conduct discharge, which affects pay and benefits.

The Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance, a venerable local organization, is pursuing issues surrounding the NCIS claim that information on civilians was passed to the D.C. police department.

Bob Summersgill, GLAA president, said that a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting with D.C. Police Chief Maurice Ramsey was set for June 14. They hope to learn the scope of information provided by NCIS and what the department is doing with that information.

"We're getting mixed reports from lower level people in the police [department] as to whether or not they are really getting any information from or working with the military on this," said Summersgill. A couple of people have said "Yes," but the people who would actually be doing the work said "No." So it is unclear to us."

In the meantime, GLAA was out in the bars of Washington over the recent gay pride weekend distributing thousands of SLDN's palm cards advising service members of their rights. And JR's, one of the bars targeted for NCIS surveillance, sponsored an ad in the local gay newspaper with the same message.

While current evidence focuses solely on surveillance activities carried out in Washington, D.C., similar activities may have been or still are being carried out in other cities with a military presence.

Gay service members may not realize that they were targeted for entrapment on drug charges because of their sexual orientation. Or if they suspected that fact, they may have had a greater fear for their physical safety in light of the homophobic murder of Private First Class Barry Winchell last year.

Soldiers who suspect they may have been the victim of similar entrapment are encouraged to contact SLDN at (202) 328-3244, or sldn@sldn.org with "attention legal" in the subject line. Benেকে says that all communications are kept confidential. ▼

homa), H.R. 4557 was introduced with the cosponsorship of Representative Maurice Hinchey (D-New York) on June 2.

The current waiting period for SSDI is five months from time of certification of disability. People must wait an additional 24 months to qualify for Medicare. If passed, this waiver would greatly expand access to medical services and reduce financial pressure on programs that require annual appropriations, such as those funded under the Ryan White program and the AIDS Drug Assistance Program.

The most likely beneficiaries of this possible change are those who learn that they are infected with HIV when they show up at an

emergency room with an opportunistic infection. That population is traditionally medically underserved and are more likely to be lower income and people of color. That also is where the epidemic is spreading most rapidly.

Physician Coburn, who has delivered babies of women with HIV, has been a lightning rod for many AIDS advocates because of his strong support for policies like mandatory testing of pregnant women for the virus and opposition to needle exchange programs. But he also has been a strong advocate for increased funding for medical services for people living with HIV. "Coburn just literally cooked this up on his own, without anybody

asking him to do it," said Bill Arnold, director of the ADAP Working Group. He welcomed the congressman's initiative and is working to clarify a few issues through technical amendments. Coburn's office seems amenable to that.

Terje Anderson, executive director of the National Association of People With AIDS, called the waiver "a nice idea." But he is not optimistic that it will pass in this session of Congress because so little legislation is moving and the calendar is shortened with recess for the national conventions and an early adjournment to campaign.

Plus, in the midst of an ongoing discussion on adding prescription drug benefits to Medicare,

Anderson believes, "Congress is going to be very reluctant to take one particular population and add that benefit without having broader discussions."

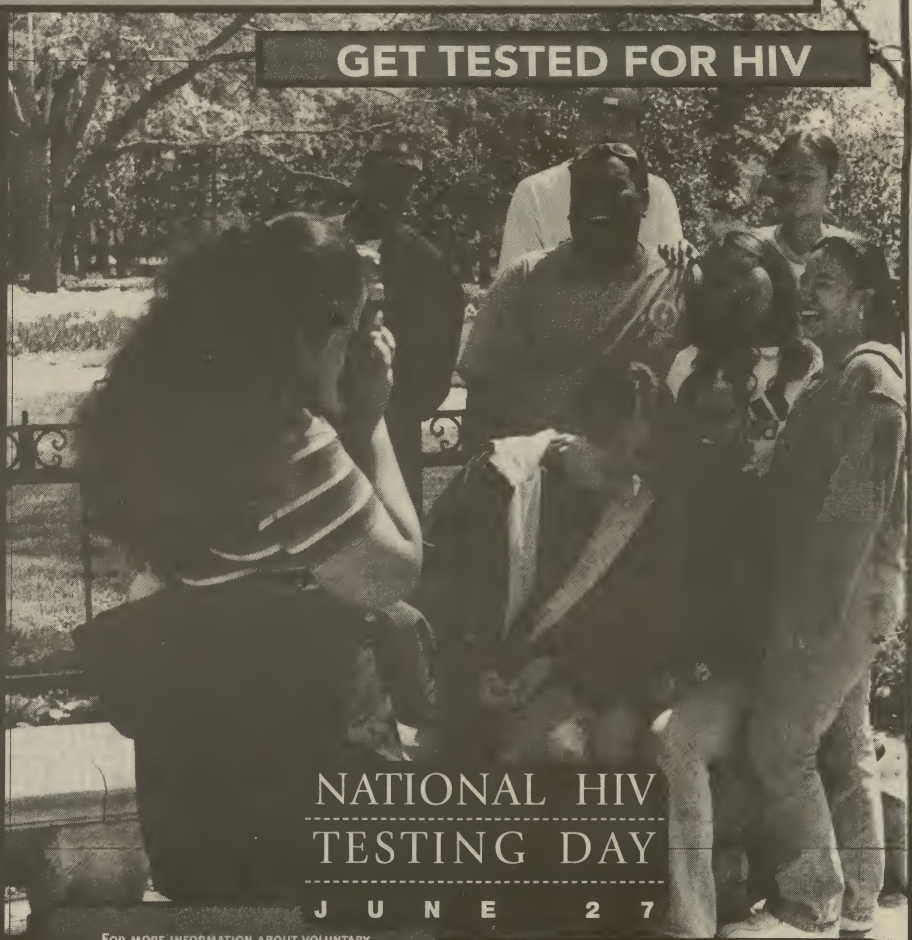
"It would be a wonderful bill if it passed," said Tom McCormack, an expert on entitlement programs and author of *The AIDS Benefits Handbook*. But he noted that other disease groups already are sniping at the bill either out of jealousy or fear that it may compete with their own efforts to get better coverage.

All three acknowledge that the most likely way for H.R. 4557 to pass this year is to have it attached as an amendment to an appropriations bill in the closing days of the session. ▼

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HIV and the central nervous system

by Phillip Alden, Survive AIDS Writers Pool

In the human body there are two main areas that directly control how the body acts and reacts, the circulatory system and the central nervous system. It's much easier to understand the circulatory system than it is the central nervous system. In the circulatory system our lungs absorb oxygen which is pumped through the heart and carried to the muscles, organs, and the brain. The liver and kidneys remove toxins from the bloodstream. The stomach absorbs food and water and breaks it down into mostly protein, fat, and complex sugars.

In the central nervous system, the brain sends both conscious and unconscious commands that tell the body how to move, and how to process external sensory stimulus through the five senses: hearing, smell, sight, taste, and touch. The brain also continuously tells the lungs to keep breathing and the heart to keep pumping.

It's important to keep in mind how little we actually know about the central nervous system. We can transplant hearts, lungs, kidneys, and livers. We do not know exactly how the brain functions. We cannot perform a brain transplant.

In initial HIV infection, the

virus infects both the bloodstream and the central nervous system at the same time, but HIV doesn't seem to seriously affect the central nervous system and brain until late-stage AIDS disease progression. In the article "The Nervous System in HIV and AIDS" by Dawn McGuire and Yuen T. So, the authors state that "Neurological disease is the first manifestation of symptomatic HIV infection in roughly 10

to 20 percent of persons, while about 30 to 40 percent of patients with advanced HIV disease will have clinically evident neurologic dysfunction during the course of their illness." [1] The article goes on to state that autopsy studies of people with advanced HIV disease show neurologic abnormalities in "75 to 90 percent of cases." That means that most PWAs will experience central nervous system problems over the course of their disease.

Because of antiretroviral therapies, more PWAs are living longer, and as a result they will experience more neurologic problems than their pre-drug predecessors who had a faster mortality rate. It also appears that central nervous system problems may be under-reported because patients often cannot self-evaluate neural disorders.

In the article "Astrocytes: HIV cellular reservoirs and import participants in neuropathogenesis" by Ruth Brack-Warner, the author states that these special cells may play a part in both brain infection and HIV regulation in the central nervous system. [2]

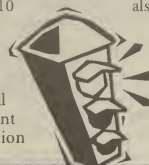
Astrocytes are critical cells, and they make up a larger percentage than any other type of cells in the central nervous system. "[Neu-

rons] are dependent on Astrocytes to provide them with essential metabolites and to regulate ion and neurotransmitter concentrations in [neural function]. In addition, Astrocytes maintain the physiological barriers between the [brain], the blood and the cerebral spinal fluid. The article goes on to state that Astrocytes are critical for central nervous system function. The problem is that Astrocytes

also promote entry and spread of HIV into the brain. The study of Astrocytes is relatively new, and how to stop them from promoting viral replication without reducing their roll as cellular mediators is still unknown.

Peripheral neuropathy (PN) is the most prominent and easily observed central nervous system illness. It is a disease that commonly affects the nerves in the feet, and is marked by muscle weakness, atrophy, pain, and numbness. Pain levels can range from tolerable to excruciating, and the condition usually gets worse over time. Even though we have not been able to pinpoint the exact cause, it's believed that the condition is caused both by HIV and some of the antiretroviral drugs, especially the nucleoside analogues; AZT, ddI, ddC, d4T and 3TC. At present, a clinical trial at Stanford University is under way to determine if the drug Lamictal is effective in treating pain caused by neuropathy. Study participants were started on 25 mg of the drug, but for some the dosage had to be increased to 400 mg. The study has shown mixed results so far. Participants who had mild pain showed more improvement than those with severe pain, which seems to indicate that drug is going to be less effective

page 21 ►



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OBITUARIES

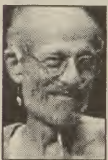
OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization – and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Faygele BenMiriam



about 4 o'clock. He passed on peacefully, surrounded by his mother Miriam

Long-time activist and former San Francisco resident Faygele BenMiriam (or as he was formerly known, John Singer) passed away of cancer in his home in Seattle on June 5, 2000 at

and some of his many, many friends.

BenMiriam was an activist since the late 1960s and early 1970s. He crisscrossed the country many times, and there is probably no state in the union in which he is not known in the gay community.

Faygele was a friend and confidant of such luminaries as Arthur Evans and Harry Hay. He was an early "Farie." He helped found the ongoing institution The Seattle Gay Community Social Services, an umbrella organization which has been funding projects in the community for nearly 30 years.

Faygele will be remembered mostly for his ability to relate to many diverse and sometimes even opposing groups, both within and outside the gay community. He is widely acknowledged for bringing together the radical and very conservative factions of the Seattle community early on.

A Jewish man, Faygele had spent much time recently working with Jewish community organizations and creating a unique bond between those and gay groups.

He recently was the Grand Marshal of the Seattle Pride Parade, an event he saw grow from 40 people he helped organize at the first march to its current tens of thousands. He made one of his last public appearances in January at a concert celebrating the fact that a record album he helped produce, *Lavender Country*, made it into the Country and Western Music Hall of Fame 30 years after its introduction as the first gay CW album in this country.

Faygele BenMiriam will be sorely missed, but his legacy will live on. Shalom my friend.

Robert Lee Miller

December 22, 1944 – April 12, 2000



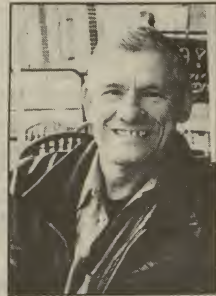
Robert Lee Miller, M.D., Ph.D., died in his home on April 12, 2000 after a 20-plus year battle with complications of HIV and AIDS. He was 55 years old. Robert was originally from Fillmore, California

and lived in San Francisco since 1981. He obtained his undergraduate degree, Ph.D. in organic chemistry, M.D. degree and did his residency training in psychiatry all at the University of California, Davis. He worked for many years as a psychiatrist with Alameda County and the State of California.

Robert was an avid outdoorsman. He loved hiking and had won championships in tennis and golf. He had many interests, including photography and gardening.

Robert's struggle with his illness was valiant and inspirational to all who knew him. Despite his illness, he continued to work until shortly before his death. He was disciplined, tenacious and had keen intellectual abilities. His wry humor, barbed wit, and irreverent social commentaries endeared him to his many friends and he will be greatly missed by them.

A memorial bench in Robert's name is planned for Strybing Arboretum in Golden Gate Park. A service is planned for July 1. For information, please contact (831) 623-2370.



Fred Lech
1940-2000

The Castro and the city of San Francisco lost one of its most cherished people; Fred Lech. His passing was sudden and unexpected.

Fred lived in San Francisco for over 25 years and was an integral part of the community. Fred shared his passion for modern design and "good lines" at his store, Centrum. More than a business, his shop had become a place for friends and customers (who would invariably become future friends) to stop by and chat, for a minute... or lingering for a few hours.

Schooled as an engineer, Fred designed brake systems for Ford in Detroit. After moving to the Bay Area, he created an innovative nozzle jet for Jacuzzi. A handsome, rugged builder, Fred renovated several houses himself before deciding to turn his hobby of collecting into one of the Castro's most beloved stores showcasing midcentury modern objects of design. His much talked-about window displays became a joyful and beautiful addition to the neighborhood.

Our community will greatly miss his shining presence and he is survived by his loving partner David and his Bay Area family: Ariel, Bill, Clifford, Kip, Tom, Jimmy, Mark, Michael, Kenny, Tim, John, Ron, Jeffrey, Richard, Steve and Eric, among many others.

We are lucky and grateful to have spent time in Fred's presence; his grace, boyish grin, and impeccable charm will be fondly remembered...

Our Man Friday

◀ page 9

when Democrat **Jon Corzine**, a liberal investment tycoon, and a strong supporter of gay rights (one news agency, Reuters, reported he favors "gay marriages") won the right to face a conservative Republican congressman for the seat of retiring U.S. Senator **Frank Lautenberg**. Most political observers in New Jersey make Corzine the early favorite to win that one in November.

Okay, okay, I know she's now officially out, but does anyone really care that Irish singer **Sinead O'Connell** is a lesbian?

Connor finally admitted that she's a lesbian in a *Curve* magazine interview. (Some of my lesbian friends have been saying that for years.)

An appeals court in Michigan recently upheld a ruling that the school district in Byron Center, Michigan, must pay \$25,800 to the estate of a gay teacher. The district had stopped payment on a severance package when **Gerry Crane** died of heart failure in 1997. Crane had resigned a year earlier saying the anti-gay atmosphere in the town was like "ingesting poison." The school district then contended that by dying, Crane had failed to fulfill his obligation to search for a job.

Massachusetts state Senator **Cheryl Jacques** (D) revealed that she is a lesbian during a successful drive in the state Legislature to preserve state funding for school safety programs that protect students from anti-gay violence; Jacques's acknowledgment of her sexual orientation makes her that state's first openly lesbian or gay state senator.

Governor **Gray Davis** last week appointed **Jeanne Woodford** of Benicia as the new warden at San Quentin State Prison; if approved, as expected, by the state Senate, Woodford will become the first female warden in the prison's 147-year history. And how was your week? ▼

Survive AIDS

◀ page 20

tive for people whose neural damage is more advanced.

Some AIDS drugs, particularly AZT are capable of crossing the blood-brain barrier intact. A large, short-term study among adults with advanced HIV disease showed improvement in both memory and learning new skills, but there was only a four-month follow-up. Many of the gains in the group may have been negated further down the road.

AIDS dementia complex (ADC) is a serious condition that can be caused by a number of viral agents; fungal infections, toxoplasmosis, human herpes virus-6 and progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy, (or PML). Dementia is characterized by both subtle and profound changes in behavior, mood, recognition, and tactile sense. People with this condition are often compared to people with severe mental disabilities, and may exhibit antisocial behaviors, yelling or incoherent mumbling, memory loss, or illogical actions. There are no cures at the moment, but there are promising therapies, and the recent developments in psychological medications are an immense help.

Encephalitis is an inflammation of the brain. Most types of encephalitis are caused by viral infection. Symptoms include sudden fever, headaches, sensitivity to light, stiff neck and back, confusion, clumsiness and an unsteady gait.

Meningitis is an infection of the membranes that surround the brain and spinal cord. Many of the symptoms of meningitis are similar to the symptoms of encephalitis.

There are a lot of treatments for these two diseases. Antiviral medications and antibiotics can be used to treat infections, anti-convulsant drugs combat seizures, corticosteroids can reduce brain swelling and inflammation, and sedatives can help ease irritability and restlessness.

The prognosis for encephalitis varies from case to case. Some cases are mild, short, and the patient recovers fully. Other cases can cause permanent neurological damage and death. If meningitis is detected and treated early, most patients recover, but there is a variant that progresses quickly and causes death within 48 hours. Most HIV doctors monitor their more advanced patients so that these two diseases can be detected early and treated quickly and effectively.

Mitochondrial myopathies are

a group of neuromuscular diseases involving mitochondria. Mitochondria are small structures found in every living cell in the human body, and they are essentially "power plants" that produce the energy a cell needs to function. Mitochondrial myopathies do the most damage in cells that need a great amount of energy: nerves, the brain, and the muscles. The symptoms of the myopathies include muscle weakness, heart rhythm disturbances, dementia, movement disorders, deafness, blindness, and seizures.

There is no current treatment for mitochondrial myopathies, but physical therapy can improve muscle range and dexterity. Vitamin therapies such as riboflavin, coenzyme Q, vitamins C and K, and carnitine can also be beneficial. The prognosis for mitochondrial myopathies varies greatly, depending on disease progression and the degree of involvement of various organs.

It is important for people living with HIV/AIDS to understand how their central nervous system works, how it gets infected, and how it is treated. It is also important to determine if any of the antiretroviral therapy drugs contribute to central nervous system disease. In these days of emerging debilitating side effects from AIDS drug therapy, we need to know all we can regarding drugs, treatment, and research. We also need to develop more antiviral medications that can cross the blood-brain barrier. Until then, early detection and use of the effective treatments available today is a must for all PWAs. ▼



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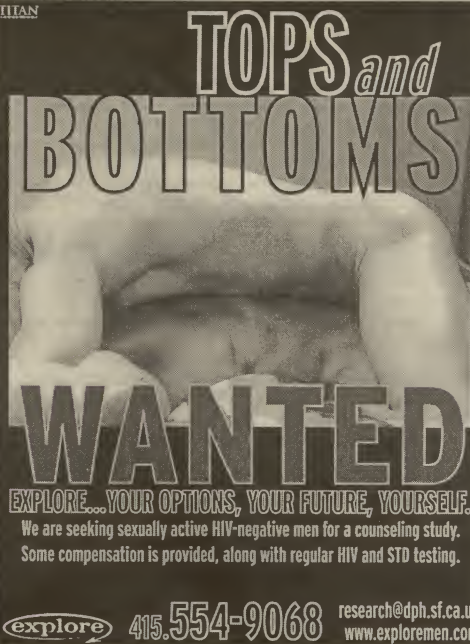
The Nervous System in HIV and AIDS; Dawn McGuire and Yuen T. So. The AIDS Knowledge Base – <http://hivinsite.ucsf.edu/akb/1997/05neuro/index.html>.

Astrocytes: cellular reservoirs and important participants in neuropathogenesis; Ruth Brack-Warner. AIDS 14 January 1999, Volume 13, Number 1, The International AIDS Society.

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Globe trotters

by Jim Provenzano

FrontRunner time again. June 24. Pride Run 2000. 9 a.m. Sharp.

The 5K/10K course starts and finishes by the Stow Lake Boathouse in Golden Gate Park. Prizes and awards will follow at the potluck picnic to be held in the picnic area adjacent to the Boathouse. A fabulous T-shirt will be given to each registered runner.

Race Director Anne Ludwig promises another great event, with more runners and great food. Local sponsors include FullBloom Bakery, Spotlight Awards, and Cobb Mountain Spring Water, as well as K-Y Liquid (for after the run?). Terri Hill of the Baylands FrontRunners club has designed the logo for FrontRunners, which will be shown off at this big event. Run for your Pride.

Registration forms are now available at sffrontrunners.com, by calling (415) 978-2429, or by visiting local running stores, gyms, and other Castro area stores.

If the quality of your gay pride latte isn't up to par, head up north to Team Seattle land on Pride Sunday June 25. They welcome out of towners who want to march in their parade (they don't have streetcar rails, for you jock drag stars in high-heeled tennis shoes). You can also promote your

sport in the Team Seattle booth at the Pride Festival. For more information, e-mail Curt Schultz or call (206) 933-7510. <http://www.teamseattle.org/sumfest/index.html> or <http://www.teamseattle.org/>

Euro - jocked

Zurich hosted the sixth gay and lesbian International Eurogames June 1-3, with more than 4,000 participants from 40 countries participating in 19 disciplines. Zurich contributed 25,000 francs (\$15,000 U.S.) to the affair, which was welcomed (with open wallet) by the city, and Mayor Josef Estermann.

The first gay cricket team, The Graces, having prevailed in nine of its 10 matches last year, applied to the Surrey Cricket Board to join a competitive league. Like there won't be any sisters already donning white in that league. Ah, Europe.

La vie en mat

Paris Wrestling was pleased to welcome 35 participants for an international tournament of wrestling in Paris last weekend.

Manuel F. Picaud, president of Equipe Paris (Fédération Sportive Gaie et Lesbienne CGPIF), in a recent missive to grapplers described the first effort of gay Europeans to organize a Parisian match. "Good level and lot of fair-play!" he wrote. "The Gay and Lesbian Sports Federation CGPIF then concluded the tournament by congratulating the organizers, the volunteers and the participants." The next EuroGrapple tourney is in Cologne.

"Wrestling is getting more and more organized in Europe," Picaud said. "We are very enthusiastic for the next Gay Games in Sydney 2002. We hope there will be again wrestling at EuroGames in a near future!"

As do many. For more info, visit <http://www.cgpi.org>

London calling

Those of you who don't fly Alaska Air to Seattle (does anyone anymore?), those with some Virgin Atlantic mileage may want to pop on over to Britsville for the London UK 2000 sportsorama. July 28-30, over 600 European athletes will visit the UK as part of London Mardi Gras and other gay Pride events. Games and matches of badminton, ballroom dancing, cricket, football (rugby to you), softball, swimming, and tennis will fill the Brit city with queer jock fun.

"Whatever your standard, you will find an event for you to enjoy," said Chris Dunn, Waltham Forest Council spokesman for UK

Gay Sports 2000.

Got mileage? Go, already, you rich circuit freak flight attendant biz class guppie. No, really. Go. You deserve it. That's your cell phone calling. For more info, visit <http://www.gaysportsfestival.org.uk/>

Utah-lerate

What was the highlight (or lowlight, depending on your taste) of Utah's first gay rodeo, June 3-4, without too many hitches, 450 fans and 100 participants, despite Iowa farmers refusing homos rent of their livestock (or farmhands)?

Perhaps they didn't want to humiliate their hooved creatures in the animal "drag race" involving teams composed of one male, one female, and one dragster who together drag (or are dragged by) a steer (in drag?) across a chalk line, after which the dragster must ride the animal back across the line. Sounds culturally challenging as well.



Blaine Wilson, three-time national champion, on pommel horse.

Eiffel Towers

Road trip of road trips: For a gracefully muscular dose of Icarus flight (but without the messy wax wings), men's gymnastics fans should road trip down to Southern California for the Men's National Qualifier, July 1 at the University of California, Santa Barbara in Robertson Gymnasium. Catch it while you can, folks. Only a few colleges support this rare breed of athletics. For more info, visit <http://www.usa-gymnastics.org/men/>

Location, location, location

Up for bid on Gay Games VII: Atlanta, Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami-Fort Lauderdale, New Orleans, San Diego, and Montreal. The Federation of Gay Games won't announce the finalists until mid-May 2001. Send your preference and why to JimProv@excite.com.

And in San Francisco Bay - literally in the bay - Giants fans are crowding the waters of McCovey Cove to catch water-borne home runs. Aquatic loiterers crowding the Pac Bell Park ferry landing are now just cause for our tax dollars to be spent hiring extra Coast Guard and cops on boats to regulate the nuts who cruise around on their yachts hoping to catch a homer. Expect the first offshore fly ball fatality any day now. ▼

OutRight

◀ page 10

Yet the California Alliance for Pride and Equality, the statewide gay lobbying group, reacted to the veto by saying the measure had not been a priority anyway. "We knew the governor was going to veto the bill," said CAPE's executive director, as if that foreknowledge matters. She then characterized as "minor" four other pending proposals for domestic partners, presumably giving Davis a pass on these bills as well.

That was too much for one non-partisan activist, who told the

Bay Area Reporter that "our community has been accepting too little from the Democrats, too easily."

Why the double standard? One possibility is that our leaders are willing to sacrifice gay equality on liberalism's altar for the sake of other issues they care about. But that's too cynical.

I suspect it's more like the battered wife syndrome: we keep coming back because we think they won't abuse us again and, after all, *they love us*.

One of these days we'll have a civil rights movement that doesn't look at partisan labels before deciding what to say and do. That day is not here. ▼

HIVCare Clinical Research

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Half of all participants will receive IL-2; the other half will be observed.

HIV and Hepatitis C co-infection anemia study

- Men and women who are taking or soon will take ribavirin and Interferon alfa-2b
- Hemoglobin less than 12.0 g/dL and elevated LFT
- Study provides HIV and HCV viral load, routine chem panels

Study provides Procrit for those who require it.

Capravirine (AG 1549) for NNRTI failure

- Men and women whose viral load is increasing while taking an NNRTI (Viramune, Sustiva, Rescriptor)
- 3 groups: 2,100 mg, 1,400 mg or placebo Capravirine twice a day
- All receive Viracept plus 2 new nucleoside analog drugs

SU5416 (Phase II) for treatment-resistant KS

- Men and women with previously treated Kaposi's sarcoma
- SU5416 "starves" lesions of new blood supply
- Decreases KS-associated swelling

HIVCARE CLINICAL RESEARCH DEPARTMENT IS A NON-PROFIT PROGRAM OF SAINT FRANCIS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, 900 HYDE STREET, SAN FRANCISCO.
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL MARK BOWERS AT 415-353-6215.

CLASSIFIEDS

Get hitched

◀ page 3

by Migden and Mayor Willie Brown and will help to fulfill Migden's goal of registering 50,000 domestic partners by the end of the year. Remember, even if you are already registered with the city, it doesn't count in the statewide drive to increase our visibility.

"The registration ceremony taking place on Pride weekend will be a celebration of this newly established affirmation and will increase our constituency as we strive to increase the benefits enjoyed by these committed families," said Migden.

The more partners that register, the more that legislators can show a solid voting bloc of people in favor of domestic partnership rights. Migden's legislation, now that it is in place, can act as a bank to which we can gradually and incrementally add benefits in the right political climate. Considering the fact that Proposition 22 — which limited marriage to a union between a man and a woman —

passed in California just a few months ago, the domestic partnership law seems to be the best bet for securing more rights for gay and lesbian couples.

Domestic partners, by definition, must be over 18 years old, unrelated by blood, be in a committed relationship, share a common residence, and be jointly responsible for each other's living expenses. One partner may maintain another residence or leave for travel, as long as both intend to keep one residence that they both share.

Of course, in order to become "official," you'll need a notary. That's where Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays comes in. P-FLAG will sponsor a booth at Pride staffed with a notary public on both Saturday and Sunday so couples can register on the spot by completing the application form and paying the \$10 filing fee charged by the state. Bring your identification.

Couples who wish to take part in the ceremony should contact Eric Potashner in Migden's office at (415) 557-3000 or eric.potashner@asm.ca.gov. ▼

TG task force

◀ page 4

social services; health and medical services; and charter and standing rules. Interested persons who are not members of the task force may serve on the subcommittees, which will report to the full task force in their respective areas.

In addition to co-chair Leslie, the Board of Supervisors appointed Shawna Virago, Claire Skiffington, L.J. Irving, Theresa Sparks, Riley Morgan, Sarah Marshall, David

Cameron Strachan, Jo Ellen Fisher, Mathew Martin, and Jordy Jones.

Appointed by the HRC were co-chair Arana, Lisa Middleton, and Yoseno Lewis.

As provided in the legislation creating the task force, Mayor Willie Brown also selected three appointees: Veronika Cauley, Stacy Jackson, and Crystal Catamco. ▼

For more information, call Nathan Purkiss in Leno's office at (415) 554-7734.

BAY AREA REPORTER
CLASSIFIEDS

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Dads, 50-80; sons any age, wanted for XXX videos. Good pay, easy-going atmosphere. Sons must be genuine daddy lover. Call Rick 415-437-0747. E24

GAY MEN NEEDED

for a participatory study on gender identity/gender self-concept. Must be 25-40 yo, Euro-Am, & current SF resident. For more info call Rexton at 415*863*4650 x2 or write Rexton_L@hotmail.com E29

NEED LESBIAN WIFE

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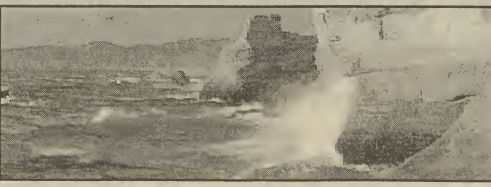
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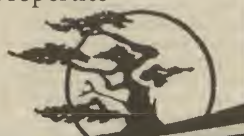
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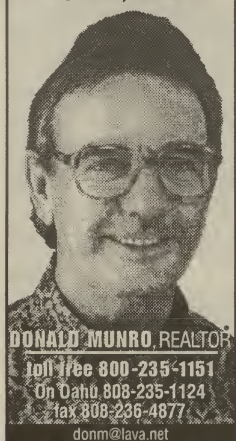
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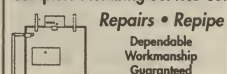
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LEGAL NOTICES

Request for Qualifications #183

Dear Potential Applicant:

DHS RFQ #183

The City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services (SFDHS) announces its intent to seek qualifications from individuals interested in contracting to provide staffing and workload studies of various programs within the DHS. This staffing and workload study is intended to help DHS identify and implement the most effective staffing levels, to improve the efficiency of workflow and other work processes and to achieve the best use of current resources. The goal of the study is to alleviate workload stress, improve error rates, reduce and maintain low levels of backlog, improve morals and maintain favorable employee retention rates. The study will include, but not necessarily be limited to, workload issues related to program complexity, the impact of legislative and regulatory changes on programs, new and multifaceted programs, specialized caseloads, Department policies and procedures, program fluctuations, uncovered caseloads and bilingual caseloads. the workload study shall include line staff, line supervisors, unit clerks and may also include client reception workers.

An RFQ packet may be picked up at SFDHS, 170 Otis, 8th Floor beginning

Monday, June 5, 2000. Office hours are from 8AM to 5PM.

The Respondents' Conference is on Monday, June 12, 2000 at 10:00 AM at the SF Dept. of Human Service, 170 Otis, 4th Floor Conference Room #2, SF, CA. RFQ is due Friday, June 23, 2000 by 5:00PM - no exceptions. For further information or to receive an RFQ packet, contact Rosa Inez at (415) 557-5538

STATEMENT FILE NO.241286

The following person(s) are doing business as Honnel Enterprises Inc. 600 Page Street #302 San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Jeffrey L. Banks, President. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 6/16/99. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 06/08/2000.
JUNE 15, 22, 29 JULY 6, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO.240561

The following person(s) are doing business as LockeOn! 801 Fillmore St. #21, San Francisco, CA 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Wayne Brooks Jr. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, NA. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 05/04/2000
JUNE 1, 8, 15, 22, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO.240979

The following person(s) are doing business as Cathedral Tours of San Francisco 5235 Diamond Heights Blvd. Suite 301 San Francisco, CA 94131. This business is conducted by an individual signed Steven L. Rogers. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, NA. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 04/24/2000
JUNE 1, 8, 15, 22, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO.240974

The following person(s) are doing business as My City Tours 1833 Broderick St. S.F., CA 94115. This business is conducted by an individual signed Russell Forrest. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, NA. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 05/24/2000
JUNE 1, 8, 15, 22, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO.241222

The following person(s) are doing business as Pacific Oyster Bar And Restaurant 1434 Lombard Street, San Francisco, CA 94123. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Kam Li. President. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, NA. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 06/05/2000
JUNE 8, 15, 22, 29, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO.240621

The following person(s) are doing business as Red Afro 786 Minna #10 San Francisco, CA 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Philip A. Marineau. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, NA. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 05/08/2000
JUNE 8, 15, 22, 29, 2000

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE NO.312642

In The Superior Court Of The State Of California In And For The County Of San Francisco. In The Matter of the Application of Randall Rodriguez. For Change of Name. The application of Randall Rodriguez for change of name, having been filed in Court, and It appearing from said application that Randall Rodriguez has filed an application proposing that his name be changed to Mark Andrew. Now therefore, It is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 24th day of July, 2000 at 9:00 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
JUNE 8, 15, 22, 29, 2000

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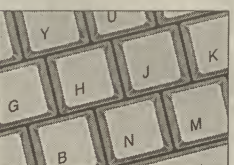
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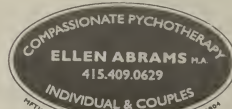
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page 41

Doc in the house?
Documentaries compete
with features at Film Fest.
page 35



Same men, new tricks
'Queer As Folk 2' is a
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 30 • No. 24 • 15 June 2000

24th SF International Lesbian & Gay Film Fest, week one

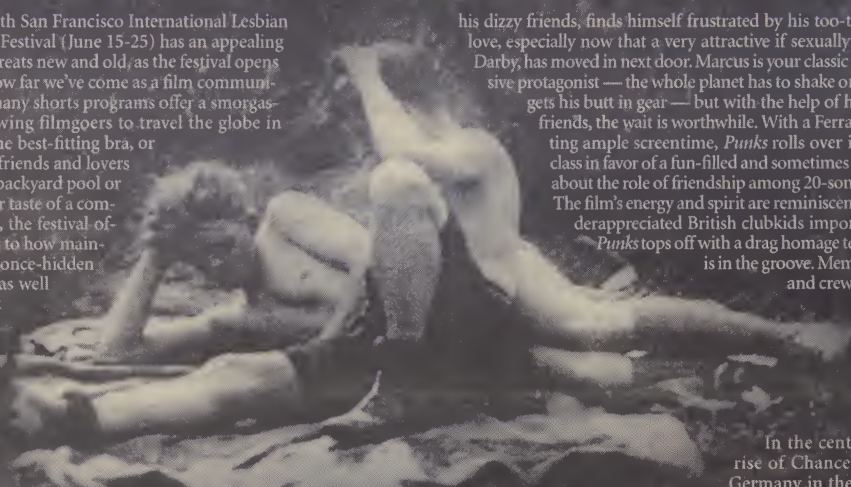
Guilty pleasures and backward glances

by David Lamble

This year's 24th San Francisco International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival (June 15-25) has an appealing mixture of treats new and old, as the festival opens its back pages to show how far we've come as a film community. As in years past, the many shorts programs offer a smorgasbord of sensations allowing filmgoers to travel the globe in search of the first kiss, the best-fitting bra, or the mystery of how best friends and lovers can suddenly lose it in a backyard pool or through the sudden bitter taste of a communion wafer. This year, the festival offers plenty of evidence as to how mainstream our community's once-hidden pleasures have become, as well as reminding us of just how important and dangerous it was to be queer in the past century.

The opening night film is a "Boystown" fairy tale about the crazy war love, sex and friendship serve to divide, confuse and befuddle. Set in a vividly depicted affluent African-American gay male slice of West Hollywood, *Punks* tells the stories of four friends, Marcus, Hill, Chris and Dante, who are approaching their 30s tripping about the men missing from their once-contented lives.

As the film opens, Hill is two-timed by his sexy French boyfriend at his own birthday bash; Chris faces a revolt from his fellow girl group "Sisters"; Dante is spinning his parents' wheels, getting increasingly strung out in the fast sex lane; while Marcus, whose successful photography career once made him the rock for



A scene from
Paragraph 175

his dizzy friends, finds himself frustrated by his too-timid approach to love, especially now that a very attractive if sexually ambiguous man, Darby, has moved in next door. Marcus is your classic maddeningly passive protagonist — the whole planet has to shake on its axis before he gets his butt in gear — but with the help of his much spunkier friends, the wait is worthwhile. With a Ferrari and a Rolls getting ample screentime, *Punks* rolls over issues of race and class in favor of a fun-filled and sometimes drug-fueled romp about the role of friendship among 20-something sissy boys.

The film's energy and spirit are reminiscent of the recent underappreciated British clubkids import, *Human Traffic*. *Punks* tops off with a drag homage to Sister Sledge that is in the groove. Members from the cast and crew are slated to be at the post-film party in the Pavilion next to the Castro (6/15).

Lost world

In the century between the rise of Chancellor Bismarck in Germany in the early 1870s and the worldwide revolt of queers in the late 1960s, 29 words in the German penal code condemned several generations of sexual nonconformists to a living nightmare of discrimination, legal persecution and, finally, extermination. Oscar-winning documentary-makers Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman (*The Times of Harvey Milk*, *Common Threads*, *The Celluloid Closet*) bring their patented alchemy of present-day interviews and haunting archival footage to dramatize an almost-lost world, the lives of queer men and women lost to *Paragraph 175*. It took the diabolical methods of the Nazi Party to make the German anti-sodomy law so ruinous to the lives of so many. Epstein and Friedman

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How Brian Epstein's passion for the Beatles shaped history

All he needed was love

by Mark Mardon

No figure in rock 'n' roll history did more to trailblaze the road for future band managers — defining the path to success for all great bands — than Brian Epstein, who managed the Beatles, boldly shaping their ascent from Liverpool obscurity to global superstardom. Elvis may have had Colonel Parker, but compared to Epstein, Parker was a mere carnival barker. In marketing the Fab Four to the world and setting countless precedents in doing so, Epstein set in motion cultural forces that irrevocably changed not just the music industry, but global society. What motivated him therefore becomes a question of significance not just to Beatles fans, but to those who want to understand Western Civilization in the late 20th century.

Epstein had the bad luck to be gay in Britain at a time when that country's criminal penalties for homosexuality were par-

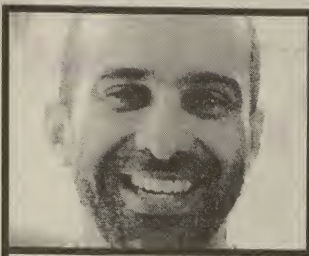
ticularly harsh. The fact of Epstein's gayness, however closeted he may have been out of necessity (his homosexuality was well known to and accepted by those close to him, just not talked about publicly), figures hugely not just in his own life, but in the Beatles' vast legacy. Though Epstein hardly conjures up the image of a conquering warrior, his gayness turns out to be as significant in the course of human events as that of Alexander the Great. The decisions Epstein made in orchestrating the Beatles' meteoric rise were both revolutionary and hugely informed by his being gay.

Whether these statements accurately reflect the historical record, or exaggerate for the sake of erecting yet another icon in the pantheon of manmade deities, they are impressions inescapably drawn from viewing *Arena: The Brian Epstein Story*, a documentary film by British television and film pro-

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Lennonite: Brian Epstein, subject of a British documentary at the SFILGFF



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by Roberto Friedman
and Tropical Trudie

By the time you are reading this, the corks have popped at the opening of the 24th San Francisco International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, the paparazzi's cameras are flashing, and you are there. You're digging the vibe in the VIP tent of the "Festival Pavilion" (Castro parking lot). You're discovering an unknown genius filmmaker. You're discussing semiotics with film-world intellectuals. You're feeling up the Silver Screen's latest beefcake squeeze. Or you're living vicariously, through us!

Can't you just feel the excitement spin out of control? We love the buzz. Advance word is that one of the major film offerings is a real clunker, but we'll leave it for you to guess which one. Meanwhile, the miracle we alluded to a few weeks ago came true: the IMAX 3-D film *Siegfried & Roy: The Magic Box* is being given an extra-special preview at the Film Fest, Thurs., June 22 at 6 p.m., at the "un-mall" Metreon. But don't S&R have two magic boxes between them?

We're promised face-to-snouts with S&R's precious white tigers and some real industry lions. We're promised Vegas glitz and Bavarian earthiness. We're promised lots of Spandex. And we feel sure the gayest screening ever at the IMAX will prove definitively that, 60 years after the Third Reich, German homosexuals in leather with whips at their disposal are still scary. We don't even know what to call a codpiece eight stories high.

But enough about giant, 3-D pouches! Sometimes the greatest pleasures at the SFILGFF are really the simplest: short features made by independent filmmakers on limited budgets. Out There chatted with an old friend, LA director Lisa Ginsburg, whose 11-minute *Override* is one of the highlights of a program at the Victoria called *Bad Girls, Bad Girls, Watcha Gonna Do* (6/22). It's the story of a wage slave who rebels against her nasty, patriarchal boss and finds love in the arms of a butch stranger, all set to the fierce music of SF cult dyke



Skylar Cooper and Tara Ann Clay in *Override*

band *The Hail Marys*.

"It's about getting rid of the bad daddy, and finding the good one!" said Ginsburg. The Marys rock out for their adoring fans in an underground lesbo club, where butch brings femme, via a glamorous elevator, at tale's close.

Ginsburg and her talented director of photography, *Hrabba Gunnarsdóttir*, filmed the club scene at SF's venerable Cafe DuNord. "I would have shot in LA, but I knew The Hail Marys would bring a fan base with them here that I could never replicate." Lead singer/songwriter Jackie Strano and her riot grrls, who record on their own label, Panic Stricken Records, filled the DuNord with 150 of their devoted following. "So they were patient with us, because normally, extras get really bored."

It's the HMs' first video, and Ginsburg plans to edit a stripped-down music video-version of the concert footage for airplay. But it would be a shame to lose the story, or sweet newcomer Tara Ann Clay as femme Jen, and strapping discovery Skylar Cooper as the butch bike messenger who whisks her away. It's the first screen appearance for both; Strano spotted Cooper in a local-scene crowd. And there's real chemistry going on between the women. As Ginsburg reminded us, "Part of the fantasy is submitting to a butch stranger!"

Beat the press

One Film Fest event you won't see us promote is the so-called "Meet the Press" panel on reviewing LGBT film. Frameline has stocked the panel with established New York film critics and at least one questionable choice (noted film journal *Pioneers*?), but incredibly, no-one at Frameline bothered to pick up the phone and call us at the BAR for panelists from the local

queer press. Just for the record: Our full stable of SF film writers provides quality queer film coverage week after week, and we would put any one of them up against any film critic on either coast.

Are SF cultural events forever going to bow toward Manhattan? It's an appalling oversight, and we feel, frankly, that Frameline blew it.

Goodbye to blokes

Three Celtic cheers to pop star/Pope-ripper Sinead O'Connor, who came out with a splash last week to lesbian magazine *Curve*. "I'm a lesbian," she told *Curve*. "I haven't been very open about that, and throughout most of my life I've gone out with blokes because I haven't necessarily been terribly comfortable about being a lesbian. But I actually am a lesbian."

Well, that's pretty clear, we'd say. We've been listening to an advance copy of O'Connor's terrific new album *Faith and Courage*, to be released later this month. O'Connor shows signs of both virtues. In the CD's first single, "No Man's Woman," Sinead sings, "I don't wanna be no man's woman! I haven't traveled this far to become no man's woman!" Out There genuflects.

Appalachian spring

The San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival, now in its 22nd year, opened last week, and will jump, spin, squat, twirl, swivel, sashay, and saunter around the Palace of Fine Arts Theater through June 25. On the first weekend of the Festival, it also stomped, thanks to the Appalachian-inspired all-male *Barbary Coast Cloggers*. With their fancy footwork and terpsichorean perfection, the BCC have been wowing audiences for almost 20 years. Being light in the loafers is not a prerequisite for cloggerhood, but it helps. Since the troupe is largely gay, and performs regularly in this festival, perhaps social theorist Steven Epstein ("Gay Politics, Ethnic Identity" from *Forms* page 46 ▶

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THEATRE

Bachelor party

'The Secret of the Old Queen' at NCTC

by Richard Dodds

You might think that gay theater is well beyond seeking tittering laughs from double entendre references to lube jobs and delicious buns, but *The Secret of the Old Queen* is a self-aware throwback to an era when innuendo was considered daring. Unfortunately, it's not a device that can sustain a two-hour-plus show, at least not as inconsistently applied by its creators and realized at the New Conservatory Theatre Center.

This musical send-up of the Hardy Boys mysteries begins promisingly enough, with the brothers parachuting out of a faltering airplane while singing about the glories of their hometown, a place where skies are always blue, the bread is always white, and where "withdrawals don't exceed deposits and there are no secrets in our closets."

It's also the best scene in the show, highlighted by inventively chintzy props and an opening song with a cheery satire that is tunelessly rendered. But, like the plane, the songs by Timothy Cope and Paul Boesing go into a tailspin (especially in their hesitant performances here), while the humor soon loses its freshness and focus, which director John Sowle occasionally awkward staging for Kaliyuga Arts can't remedy.

The story revolves around a series of burglaries striking the "bachelor elite" of Bayport, a town where euphemisms help sustain illusions. Fearing he is next in line, millionaire philanthropist and gentleman recluse Cornelius Digby hires Frank and Joe to guard the provocatively phallic statue he is donating to the local museum.

The collision of Digby's barely disguised lasciviousness with the boys' '50s-style innocence provides some comic sparks, but Boesing's script doesn't know how to sustain this winning tone. When the boys' Aunt Gertrude sings an obvious song complaining about confusions in gender identity, it unrewardingly pulls the show from its mythical world into something closer to contemporary reality.

The cast is at its best when it is not singing. As the Hardy Boys, Patrick Michael Dukeman as Joe is the more comically able of the two (and looks better in drag), while handsome Jared Fortunato offers an appealing earnestness. As Joe's girlfriend Iola, Jessica



Shelley Lynn Johnson as Electra Carstairs in *The Secret of the Old Queen*

Jackson, one of the show's few singers, also has a delightfully wry way of sending up her intentionally arcane patter. Gina Falchetta, as Frank's girl Callie, has some bright moments as well.

Jonathan Simpson engagingly plays the Hardys' nerdy friend. Stephen Pawley scores laughs early on as old-queen Digby, but they lessen as the plot convolutes. (He also doubles, less memorably, as the chief of police.) Shelley Lynn Johnson can't get beyond the granny wig and glasses as Aunt Gertrude, but her style is better suited to the flamboyant pretense of shopkeeper Electra Carstairs, a character who nonetheless adds little to the proceedings. Richard Pardini, as a loutish thug, has a wicked laugh that earns return laughter. Steven Patterson is underused as Frank and Joe's father.

The Secret of the Old Queen has proved a great success for a small theater in Chicago, though one must wonder if tastes there are different or if the production is better able to overcome the script's shortcomings. In San Francisco, the Old Queen runs out of steam long before intermission arrives. ▼

The Secret of the Old Queen will run at the New Conservatory Theatre through July 16. Tickets are \$15-\$20. Call 861-8972.

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A solid booking at Theatre on the Square

by Richard Dodds

After directing *Full Gallop*, the one-woman show about Diana Vreeland, Nicholas Martin was in demand for one-person shows. "And I didn't want to do another one as long as I lived," Martin said.

But when he got dragged to a reading of a new play titled *Fully Committed*, he couldn't resist. "Not because the subject matter is hot, though it is, but because the writing was so above average and the young actor was so winning in a retiring sort of way," Martin said. "It's a contemporary Henry Fonda thing."

When *Fully Committed* opened off-Broadway last year, it became an instant hit in restaurant-crazed

New York. The producers are hoping that San Francisco, another city where dining out is a fixation, will prove fertile ground for this comedy set in the manic milieu of a hot new restaurant. It opens this week at Theatre on the Square.

In the San Francisco production, Ethan Sandler is playing Sam, a tour de force role that brought

acclaim to the equally unknown Mark Setlock in New York. "It's hard to find someone who can do 40 voices honestly and still have this indefinable quality of sweetness and patience which is essential to the show," Martin said. "The kind of guys who do a million impersonations are usually not sweet and retiring, but Ethan has that quality."

In Becky Mode's play, Sam is the reservationist at the hot new restaurant, sequestered in the restaurant's basement with a telephone to deal with the many attitudes, personalities, and stories of those clamoring for a table. Sam is a would-be actor, and a slender plot about his career and family winds its way through the barrage of phone calls.

"We had our pick of actors for San Francisco," Martin said, "and some of them well-known, but

nobody quite had this quality that Ethan has." The director identified Sean Hayes, of TV's *Will and Grace*, as one of the candidates.

"Sean almost did it," Martin said, "and I wouldn't have been able to resist that because he is so good on that show, but I had no way of telling if he could do this part. If you get too crazy and campy with this piece, it won't work at all."

Ironically, Martin began his theater career as an actor who was, well, crazy and campy. "I was certainly recognizably gay," he said. "I could be outrageous in small parts that I made big. And then I got tired of it." That's when he turned to directing.

Martin, now in his early 60s, came out in college, but he doubts it took anybody by surprise. "There's a certain kind of kid who sees Ethel Merman and immediately wants to be in show business and comes out," he said. "I'm from a funny little town in New Jersey called Roosevelt that was an art colony. Because there were so many artists there, it made any kind of coming out easy."

In the fall, Martin will become the new artistic director of the Huntington Theatre Company in Boston. "I just couldn't resist the



Creators of *Gaveston* Christopher Winslow and Ken Prestininzi

theater or the town or the opportunity to choose my own shows and directors and actors," he said. "Not in a power-hungry way, but because in New York, you're just so much putty in everybody's hands."

He also can't help wondering if romance won't present itself again as he moves to a new city. "It isn't during your failures or down periods that you long to be with someone," Martin said, "it's when success arrives, and you're not sending the clippings home to Mom anymore, and you wish someone was there to share it. But I don't want to whine in a gay newspaper."

After years of living in a third-floor walk-up in the Village, Martin is surprised himself that he'll be moving into a building with a doorman and an elevator in Boston. "I don't ever want to change what's youthful about my outlook," he said, "but it's time to have an elevator."

Fully Committed — the phrase is restaurant-speak for booked solid — is previewing through June 18 at Theatre on the Square, with opening night set for June 20. Call 433-9500.

'Gaveston' the musical

The creators of *Gaveston* weren't planning on having ACT's *Edward II* as a lead-in, but they're happy it worked out that way. Local audiences have been primed for their musical variation on the story of the 14th-century

monarch and his male lover.

Ken Prestininzi, the librettist and lyricist, first had the notion for a musical centered on King Edward's notorious lover several years ago. Last July, Prestininzi and composer Christopher Winslow, who had previously collaborated on a musical version of *Peer Gynt*, set out to create *Gaveston*. The results debut this week at St. Gregory's Nyssen Episcopal Church on De Haro near Mariposa.

"For years we have been writing with different collaborators, and it wasn't until we hooked up that we felt a little spark," Winslow said. "Something about his words allowed me to go to a different place with my music."

Audiences shouldn't fear that *Gaveston*, which is primarily sung-through, is a New Age atonal piece. "I love a melody," Winslow said. "One of my biggest influences is Frank Loesser, with a more contemporary twist to it."

The musical tells the historical story from the viewpoint of the lover. "In our telling of it," Winslow said, "Gaveston has been with many people, and this is the first time he lets himself fall in love."

Winslow, who felt ACT's production went overboard with the nudity and blood, promises a production that leaves more to the imagination. "Too much is actualized these days," he said. "Our imaginations are much more powerful

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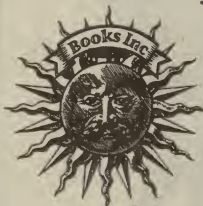


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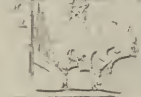
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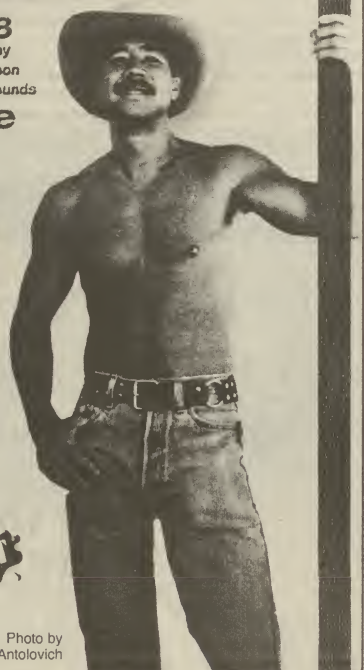
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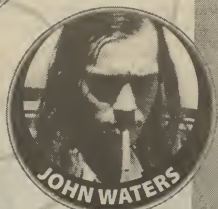
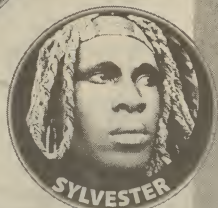
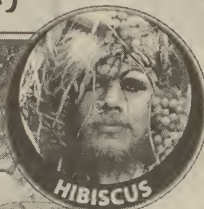
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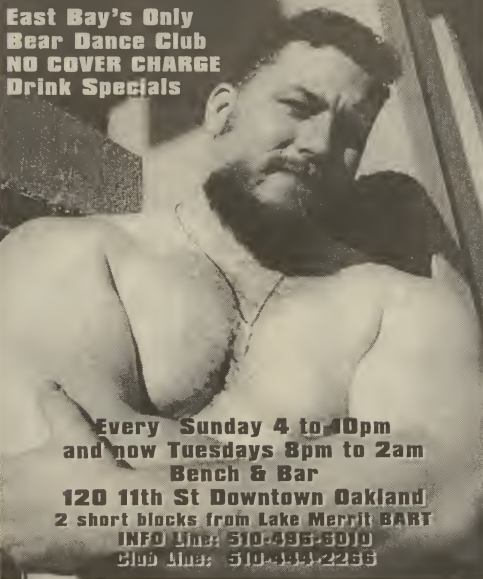
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Too light in his loafers

'Rake's Progress' dwarfed by War Memorial

by Stephanie von Buchau

Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress* is a modern opera (1951) based on an 18th-century model, specifically Mozart's *Don Giovanni*. San Francisco Opera is currently performing the two works in repertory, and while that highlights their pleasing symmetries, it also grimly underlines the problems of casting 18th-century opera in the gargantuan War Memorial Opera House.

There are those who insist that *Don Giovanni* and *Rake's Progress* simply do not belong in a 3,200-seat house. Yet, like the 1996 Civic Auditorium experience — where, for the privilege of hearing Sergei Leiferkus in *Prince Igor*, Olga Borodina in *Carmen*, Karita Mattila in *Lohengrin* and the entire *Tales of Hoffmann*, "electronic enhancement" was a small price to pay — the alternative to not hearing Mozart, *Coronation of Poppea* or *Rake's Progress* because the opera house is too big is not to be considered. On the other hand, at the Civic, however "altered" the voices may have been, you could hear them.

Last week I went on — some felt too stringently — about the egregious undercasting in Mozart's masterpiece: a Leporello you literally couldn't hear; a Donna Anna who ran out of steam during "Non mi dir." My question was, who is responsible for hiring singers who can't hack a role, and then letting them go onstage any-



Brian Asawa and Raymond Very in SF Opera's *The Rake's Progress*

way? The general director? The music director? Some powerful agents who shall remain nameless?

It is true that, in addition to the monstrous size of the house, the composer himself does not make it easy on singers. Anne Truelove, the heroine of *Rake's Progress*, in addition to appearing sweet, virtuous and tender, requires a Violetta-like instrument that commands innocent soubrette effusions in the pastoral opening, a melting lyric soprano in the final scene and heroic coloratura for the three-part aria that ends Act One on an explosive high C. SFO sacrificed Rebecca Evans, a pretty British soprano who is probably most happy singing Zerlina, in this Donna Anna-sized role. She was only audible about half the time. When compassion was called for in the Bedlam scene, the middle of her voice proved ideally warm. But she has a nasty habit of squeezing onto certain notes — probably a mechanism devised to help her through a part that is clearly too heavy, at least in this opera house.

Overshadowed

Raymond Very is not prepossessing physically or vocally; short, dumpy tenors are only appealing if they have big, glamorous, sexy voices. He nailed Tom's mad scene touchingly, but in the cavernous War Memorial, the unrakelike Very sounded and looked puny next to the Nick Shadow of Bryn Terfel. In a small house like Glyndebourne, the Welshman's outsized personality and booming bass-baritone might be downright unbearable. But in the War Memorial, he is heaven, so why doesn't SFO management honor his talent by finding a Tom and Anne "up to his weight," to quote one of the late Barbara Cartland's favorite hunting maxims?

It's too bad, because the David Hockney production, directed by John Cox and first seen here in 1982, holds up as one of the century's most appealing operatic settings. Hockney's primary colors and Hogarthian cross-hatching produce a stunning effect, both ironic and aesthetically pleasing. My favorite scene is the black-and-

white auction, with its humanizing touches of red, blue and green. David Cangelosi's Sellem and Ian Robertson's SFO chorus outdid themselves. (I adore the woman who scores the stuffed auk, which I have coveted since 1982.)

Here is where Brian Asawa's Baba the Turk was most effective. Daintier and more graceful than the women who have essayed the part in the past at SFO, Asawa commands the stage with big, easy gestures. His counter-tenor-mezzo is sweeter and more feminine than Mignon Dunn's or Victoria Vergara's ever was, though honesty compels me to note that he, too, had some projection problems on a few notes. Asawa's Baba is so rational and humane, to say nothing of being so adorable in harem pantaloon, that I wanted to take him home from the auction, along with the auk.

Cox's direction would have looked sharper with better singing. When Very couldn't master the pitch or shape the line in Tom's cavatina, "Love, too frequently betrayed," his lack of musical precision undercut the scene's painful reality of an innocent being debauched. When Evans couldn't make an emotionally climactic moment out of Anne's high C (this is an operatic device used as metaphor), the first act curtain fell with a thud.

Possibly the fact that Evans, Very and conductor Markus Stenz were performing their parts for the first time accounts for the evening's tentativeness and lack of projection. (And one can blame Stravinsky's prolixity, too, though one understands that 18th-century musical forms require repetition.) Yet whenever the evening seemed to sag, even in the epilogue, there was Terfel to liven things up. He may be in your face more than you like, but more of that aggression is required if opera on stage is to continue to thrill us. Otherwise, we might as well stay at home with our CD collections. ▼

The Rake's Progress continues in repertory at the War Memorial Opera House through June 29. For tickets, call 864-3330.

O Z O N

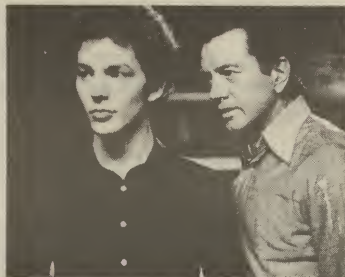


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Covering a queer geography

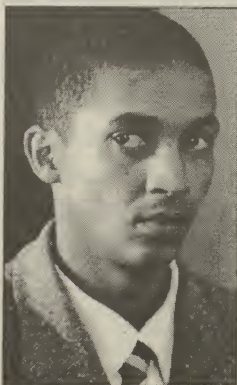
Documentaries in the 2000 SFILGFF

by Gary Morris

Documentaries can have a fascination and gravitas lacking in feature films. There's something reassuringly grounded in seeing real people facing real problems and coping, overcoming, or even yielding to them. This year's SFILGFF has a superior selection of docs that cover an extensive queer geography. The best of these can stand with any of the major mainstream documentaries of the past few years.

One of the best of the lot is Laurie Collier's *Nuyorican Dream* (6/17), a heartbreaking look at the inner workings of a Puerto Rican family in Brooklyn. The film is a kind of inverted *Real World*, with the privileged brats of that MTV show replaced by a tight-knit family in a constant struggle with poverty, drugs, and prison. The glue that binds them, barely, is the long-suffering mother, Marta, whose devotion to her kids somehow sees them through a succession of tragedies. Her gay son, Robert, escaped the drug-and-prison treadmill to graduate from college and got into teaching, and in some ways he's as important a force in the family dynamic as his mother, counseling, chastising, and supporting his siblings by turns. A birthday party in which he reads a simple poem to his mother unleashes a tidal wave of emotion that will leave few viewers unmoved.

One of the pleasures of *Nuyorican Dream* is that it situates its subject in the social and cultural context of the impoverished immigrant. Zackie Achmat's *Apostles of Civilised Vice* (6/23) also provides context for its story, but on a wider historical scale. The film is a consistently engaging history of an oppressed group, South Africa's queer population, from colonial times to today. Re-enactments, normally the bane of the documentary form, are done with charm and wit here, exploring phenomena little known in the West, such as mock-marriages between miners and their "boys." South Africa had its own homophobic authors, doctors, and other "respected" authorities who made the very concept of being gay "un-African," but their voices were eventually silenced by time and struggle. The effects of liberation in the Mandela era are giddily realized in lush images of



From *Apostles of Civilised Vice*



A scene from Laurie Collier's *Nuyorican Dream*

queens splashing happily in the water and singing in exultation.

Smoke rings

AIDS was a staple subject in the festival for many years; in 2000, it's there, but not always as the driving theme. In Jem Cohen and Peter Sillen's *Benjamin Smoke* (6/17), the syndrome is part of a mosaic of motifs that form a superb picture of Benjamin (no last name), a drag queen and singer for the Atlanta cult band Smoke. This gritty doc travels through a series of seedy locales, physical and psychic, from the impoverished "Cabbage Town" where he was raised to the mood-drenched queer punk music that made better-known talents like Patti Smith into huge fans. Benjamin's husky drawl and colorful patois — "It knocked my dick in the dirt" — make him irresistible, even as he drifts toward death.

Another fine film that has an AIDS theme is Jacqui North's *Chrissy* (6/24). This Australian doc details the crushing effect of its subject's coping, and eventual yielding, to the disease — on herself and her devoted family. Like *Benjamin Smoke*, the film is unabashedly emotional without sliding into bathos, always a temptation with this genre. Interviews with family members and friends show that family, so often a source of misery for anyone who doesn't conform, can be supportive and healing when extreme circumstances arise.

Conformity is hardly the word for the subjects of Mark Achbar's excellent *Two Brides and a Scalpel* (6/24). Burly George Scott, a Canadian tractor driver, becomes Georgina during the course of the film, in the process divorcing his wife and starting a new life with lesbian Linda Fraser. All the medical details are here, and in close-up, along with campy visual quotes from Doris Wishman's exploitation classic *Let Me Die a Woman*. But most inspiring is the women's loving dynamic, which manages to overcome the often daunting problems associated with transgendering. *Two Brides and a Scalpel* manages a fully fleshed-out portrait of its two principals in a mere 55-minute running time.

Cosmic queen

A pop star is the subject of Peter Sempel's *Nina Hagen* =

Power + Glory (6/23). Shot in a grainy verité style that's no doubt appropriate to its subject, the film gives us interviews, performance footage, and the endless cosmic prattling for which Hagen is known. Ninety-two minutes of Hagen is probably too much by half, in spite of her unusual stage getups, which include a leather harness with a big pink dildo at

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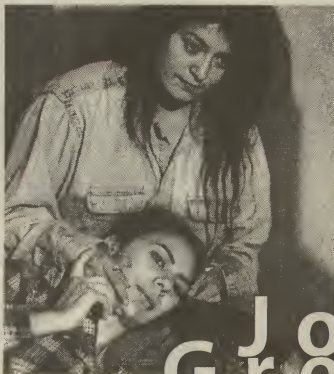


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'Folk' redux at Roxie

by Robert Julian

Okay, so you blew it. You missed *Queer As Folk*, the most talked-about event of last year's SF Gay/Lesbian Film Fest. This year you have a chance to redeem yourself when the original eight-episode saga is screened, in two sessions, at the Roxie. There has never been anything like this queer British soap opera which scandalized jolly old England with its up-front sexuality and take-no-prisoners gay subject matter.

Meet Stuart, the sexaholic lothario who prowls Manchester's Canal Street nightly, looking for fresh meat. Study his best friend, Vince, who works in a supermarket and may — or may not — be in love with Stuart. Marvel at the charms of 15-year-old Nathan, as Stuart brings him out of the closet and introduces him to the joys of rimming. And laugh out loud at the mixed bag of gay and straight friends who orbit around this high-energy trio of ruling planets. Nothing has ever captured the tawdry magnificence of the urban gay male experience as honestly as this series.

You can now rent these original *Queer As Folk* episodes at Superstar Video on 17th St. in the Castro, but they must be viewed in sequence, and they're always checked out. Anyway, Superstar rents the three tapes separately, and the cost of attending the two screenings at the Roxie is about the same as the cost of renting. Plus, at the Roxie, you'll get to enjoy the slackjawed, gut-busting guffaws of a raucous roomful of randy gay boys. If you can't get a date at one of these screenings, you might as well trade in your come-fuck-me pumps for a pair of Birkenstocks, because you are over. ▼

Queer As Folk: Episodes 1-4, 6/17, 2 p.m.; Episodes 5-8, 6/18, 2 p.m.; the entire season, 6/24, 6:30 p.m.; all at the Roxie.

The second coming

'Queer As Folk's new installment at Fest

by Robert Julian

They're baaaack! Those tough-talking queer boys from Manchester, and their Brit friends, are up to no good once again in *Queer As Folk 2*, the sequel to the wildly popular 1999 English soap opera. This time there are only two episodes, but director Menhaj Huda and writer Russell T. Davies maintain the honesty of the original series, while adopting a more serious tone. Exposing heterosexual hypocrisy is the order of the day, and blowing up a car is just one tool at the disposal of these queer characters.

Stuart (Aidan Gillen), at the ancient age of 30, discovers his physical charms are becoming less competitive in the marketplace. As this sequel opens, he and best friend Vince (Craig Kelly) are about to consummate their long-term platonic relationship via a threeway with a boy they picked up. Meanwhile, young Nathan (Charlie Hunnam) — on the verge of 16 — is hotter and hornier than ever. But Nathan's splashy debut on the local gay scene brings him constant harassment at his high school. And although Stuart remains wildly successful in both business and boys' bedrooms, his smart-mouthed, 8-year-old nephew actually tries to blackmail him. If Stuart doesn't give the little monster 100 quid, he'll not only "out" Stuart to his



Hot ticket at the Lesbian/Gay Film Fest: *Queer As Folk 2*

parents, but allege that Stuart molested him. With these issues on the table, the final two episodes take the series to a more confrontational plane. But you'll still laugh out loud at the outrageousness of the participants.

The three lead actors make a seamless transition back to the characters they played in the original series, and their dead-on portrayals give life to gay archetypal roles. The story's setting, in the gritty Northern industrial town of Manchester, adds an effective element of community to the char-

acters and their lives. These people live in a relatively small world, where friends stick together and everybody's business is in your face. When Stuart and Vince go to the wedding of Vince's sister, they not only take the dance floor together, but Stuart challenges the groom's mindless observation that Vince's sexuality is "such a waste." Yet this challenge is nothing compared to the sledgehammer approach Stuart uses to come out to his parents.

Friends and family of the gay
page 41 ►

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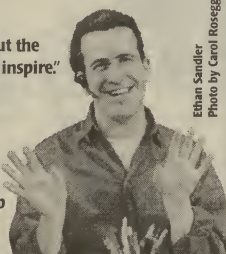
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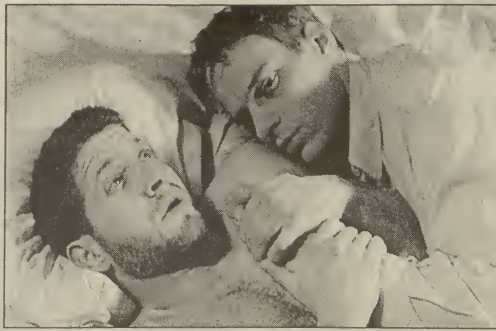
demonstrate how the perverted science of eugenics was employed by the Nazis to accuse queers of corrupting the blood of the German people. They show how this played out for men like Gad Beck, unlucky enough to be both queer and Jewish; and how another gay German went from serving time for being queer to joining Hitler's army because "that's where all the men were." *Paragraph 175* gets its Castro debut in a program co-sponsored by the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival (6/20, 8 p.m.)

In *No One Sleeps*, a liberated and very stubborn gay German takes up his late father's quest to unwrap the mystery of how AIDS came to spread so rapidly through the ranks of queer men. Stefan makes an ill-received talk at a medical conference in San Francisco before his work and love life get dangerously complicated by the pursuit of an opera-loving serial killer, who is offing HIV-positive men while humming the aria "Nessun dorma." German director Jochen Hick follows Stefan's increasingly distracted investigation through a sexy labyrinth of San Francisco S&M dungeons, fast-lane parties and backroom bars, with a pit stop at the Opera House. Everywhere Stefan goes—in cabs, bars and the hallways of his seedy Tenderloin hotel—Puccini is playing, as Stefan, fueled by drugs, coffee, and very little sleep, follows his nose for the truth and his lust for a crazy leather queen. A compelling noir set against the background of today's medical headlines, *No One Sleeps* is ultimately most satisfying as a journey of self-discovery. (Castro, 6/19, 10:15 p.m.)

Killers return

This is the first year the Festival has really indulged in that old TV standby, the summer rerun. Several programs feature past audience favorites, and the *Killer Lesbian* series takes that idea one sublime step further and brings back films that were never shown by Frameline in the first place—including one (*Basic Instinct*) that was boycotted by the community here during its filming in the early '90s. Feminist film critic B. Ruby Rich sets the stage for the festival's gore fest with a *Killer Lesbians* video clip program at the Victoria (6/19, 7:45 p.m.) In her seminal 1998 book on feminist film history, *Chick Flicks*, Rich delves into male fears about women who kill, noting the irony that a phenomenon need not be real to be worth studying: "Innumerable studies testify, women do not kill men in our society; overwhelmingly, men kill women. But what if women did? And what if men feared such a deed?"

Pour over this lurid fantasy material a steamy helping of Lesbian Chic, and you have a decade's

A scene from German director Jochen Hick's *No One Sleeps*

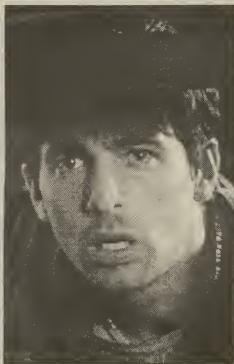
worth of lethal screen dykes: *Basic Instinct* (Castro, 6/20, 3 p.m.), *Bound* (Castro, 6/23, 3:30 p.m.), *Heavenly Creatures* (Castro, 6/21, 3:30 p.m.), topped off by Russ Meyer's 1965 camp classic, *Faster, Pussycat! Kill! Kill!* (Castro, 6/19, 3:30 p.m.), John Waters' pick for "the best film ever made." Note the soap opera-like daily scheduling, and you have a week's worth of guilty pleasure classics.

While we're on the subject of golden chestnuts, the festival's *First Films* series remembers the debut efforts of such homo film divas as Jan Osenberg (*Home Movie*, 1972), Terence Davies (*Children*, 1976), Amos Gutman (*A Safe Place*, 1977), Gus Van Sant (*My New Friend*, 1985) and Marlon Riggs (*Affirmations*, 1990). *Pièce de résistance* of the Festival's back pages is Mark Christopher's moving disco elegy *The Dead Boys Club*, which brought an early-'90s Castro audience screaming to its feet. *First Films* screen at the Roxie 6/18-20 at 8 p.m.

A distinctly American cult classic, Charles Busch's *Psycho Beach Party*, makes its long-awaited screen debut in a version that will doubtless be controversial for many fans of drag diva theatre. There probably isn't a queen reading this who hasn't played or fantasized playing Chicklet or Marvel Ann, two of the great drag theatre roles of all time. Chicklet, with her multiple personalities (S&M dominatrix Ann Bowman, sublimely repressed teen chick Florence Forest, tough street girl Ty-lene) sprung from the zany mind of Busch, who originated the role Off-Broadway in an homage both to the wonderfully tasteless low-budget '50s beach films and to his own early career as a theatrical quick-change artist. Busch and *Beach Party* director Robert Lee King have changed a few things: not only are Chicklet and Marvel Ann played by biological women Lauren Ambrose and Amy Adams, but they put a little more emphasis on the Psycho part of the Beach Party (several of the film's surfside denizens get more than their pubes shaved). With a highly stylized look, an original music score, a very funny use of rear projection, and Busch's scene-stealing supporting role as a sexy lady cop, the film wears its makeover with

panache. Don't be upset if many at the Castro (6/18, 7 p.m.) say the lines along with or even before the actors on screen.

If *Just One Time* seems oddly familiar, you're not imagining things, you probably have seen this new feature before, as writer/director/producer/actor Lane Jagger's 1998 short of the same name. The sitcom idea of what would happen if the tables were turned on a man's fantasy of having his girlfriend and another woman in bed gets fleshed out. The short's original cast returns with a few more screen credits under their belts: Joelle Carter (*High Fidelity*), Jennifer Esposito (the remake of *Shaft*), and Guillermo Diaz (*Shooting Vegetarians*). Good Friday night date fare (Castro, 6/16, 8:45 p.m.)



Just One Time turns the tables.

For hardcore festivalgoers, the franchise series *Fun In Boys'/Girls' Shorts* returns in fine form for its Castro double-dip (6/17, *Boys*: 11 a.m.; *Girls*: 1:15 p.m. Repeated Gay Day, *Boys*: 1 p.m.; *Girls*: 3 p.m.) Director Carl Pfirman (winner of last year's Audience Award for his sibling rivalry comedy *Boy Next Door*) returns with *The Confession*: a dying man's wish to be absolved of his sins gets a twisted treatment in the battle between his lover and a feckless young priest over custody of "the body of Christ." In Bradley Rust Gratt's evocatively-lensed road short *Hitch*, two young men find their friendship crossing the center line after a week cooped up in a Volkswagen camper. *Hitch* is a short film which demonstrates the capability of the form to capture life's sweet surprises.

Girl Shorts has its share of bittersweet moments: *Weeki Wachee Girls* is a Miss Manners course in how not to react to the discovery that your best girlfriend is kissing a girl you thought she hated. Director Kim Cummings nicely balances the humor of the story with an adroit use of cheesy rock and underwater photography. In *Ashley*, 22, a shy dyke's first date with an impossibly blonde dreamboat goes hilariously wrong; and clothes fetishes (from bras to boys' BVDs) are the undoing of the casts of *Bargain Lingerie* and the wacky Aussie world of *Above the Dust Level*.

Lesbian filmmaker Barbara Hammer gets a long overdue lifetime achievement award and festival retrospective spread out over several programs. Hammer, whose early subversive shorts deconstructed daily dyke dramas with visual wit and attention to detail, has in recent years given herself to the completion of a trilogy of lesbian history films, *Nitrate Kisses*, *Tender Fictions* and the just-finished *History Lessons*. *Early Works* screen at the Roxie 6/18 at 5:30 p.m. *Nitrate Kisses* and *Tender Fictions* play the Roxie 6/19 & 20 at 6 p.m. *History Lessons* is at the Castro 6/21 at 8:15 p.m. ▼

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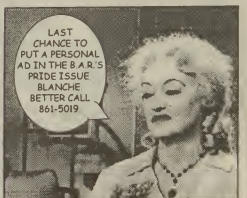


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Charles Busch's *Psycho Beach Party* makes its screen debut.

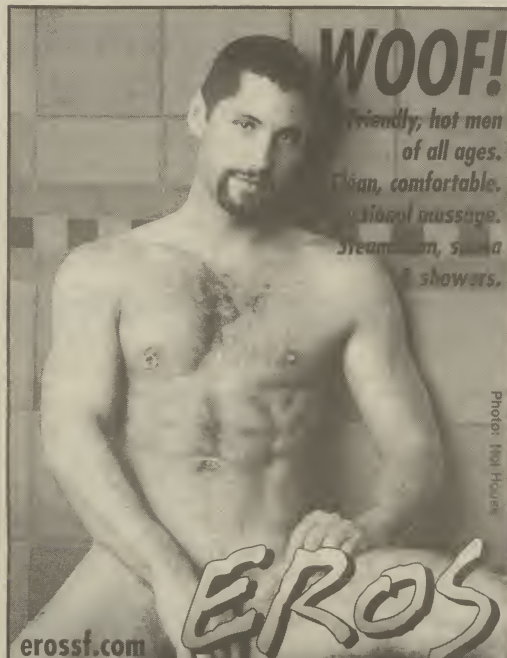
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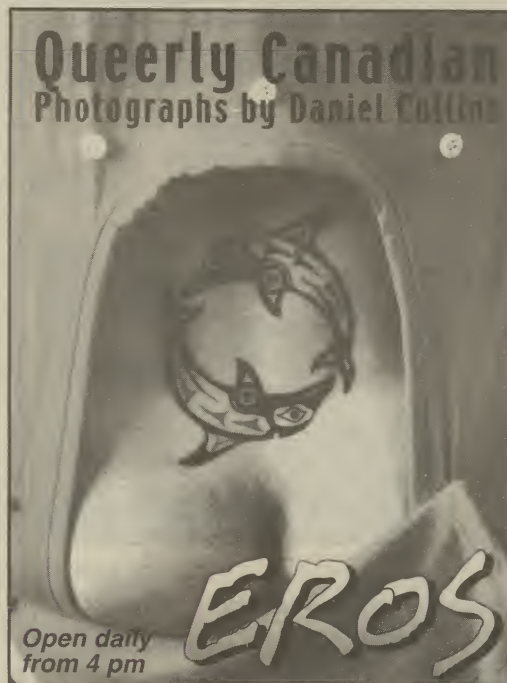


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Measly 'Beast'

Downsized Disney at the Orpheum

by Richard Dodds

Somewhere down on the list of reasons we don't live in Tulsa is that we expect our touring musicals to be part of the first string.

But the production of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* that opened last week at the Orpheum Theatre was designed to play Tulsa, where it debuted 10 months ago, and other cities without the facilities or the audiences to warrant the extended stays that larger productions logistically require. It's a real comedown from the Broadway edition and the earlier touring facsimiles.

The blame for our reduced situation is fairly benign — the Orpheum was under renovation when the grander tours were still making the rounds — but the sad fact is that without all the bells and whistles, *Beauty and the Beast* is rather meager fare.

Even in its \$12 million Broadway incarnation, the musical is a two-dimensional affair, a live version of an animated film that was praised for its resemblance to an old-fashioned Broadway musical. But in its earlier days, at least, the Broadway production had a spectacle that contributed a welcome vibrancy. Kids loved it, but adults could also get wrapped up in the theatrics behind the storybook tale.

The best example of this is in the purposefully over-the-top "Be Our Guest" number, which uses every production-number cliché to happily bamboozle the audience. It worked on Broadway and in the previous tours, but at the Orpheum it is definitely undernourished. With a diminished cast, set, and pyrotechnics, it comes across as more cheesy than cheery.

In scene after scene, the stripped-down scenery is obvious to anyone who has seen the show



Chris Hoch is a lesser Gaston in the touring *Beauty and the Beast*.

before. But Belle's now-miniaturized village or the flat drop that serves as Gaston's lair are not nearly as nettlesome as the Beast's minimalist castle. Even those who are seeing *Beauty and the Beast* for the first time, and who don't know what they're missing, will probably sense that this isn't all there is.

It's hard to blame the cast for these concerns, and Susan Owen and Grant Norman in the title roles have perk and polish. The Beast's castle staff, led by Ron Wisniski as Lumiere and John Alban Coughlan as Cogsworth, provide spirited support. But Chris Hoch creates a lesser Gaston, and Ron Lee Savin's work as Belle's father is ordinary.

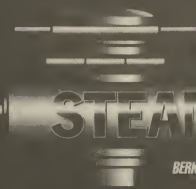
What looks less than ordinary are the ensemble numbers limply choreographed by Matt West and

equally performed by the company. Robert Jess Roth's direction doesn't deny that its inspiration is a cartoon, and there is some humor in this live-action animation, but largely the staging follows the by-the-numbers approach of Linda Woolverton's book and Alan Menken, Howard Ashman and Tim Rice's songs.

There might be enough life in this *Beauty and the Beast* to entertain the young 'uns, but the pride that the Disney people like to express at introducing a new generation to the theater rings a little less true these days. ▼

Beauty and the Beast will run at the Orpheum Theatre through July 9. Tickets are \$32-\$69.50. Call 512-7770.

when was the
last
time
you had a really
good
time?



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FILM

Brian Epstein

◀ Arts cover

ducer and director Anthony Wall, to be screened at this year's San Francisco Lesbian and Gay Film Festival. "He was one of the great original tragic stories of the new rock era," Wall told the *Bay Area Reporter* during a recent visit to San Francisco, "a kind of person that changed the world. He died in 1967, four years after he was running a record shop in Liverpool, absolutely unknown to the world. Then he managed to become one of the most famous people on earth."

Brian and 'the boys'

Wall's documentary, produced in cooperation with Paul McCartney and many others close to Epstein, benefits enormously from having first-hand access to archival footage of Epstein and his "boys," as he was forever calling the Beatles. We get to see intimate views of John, Paul, George and Ringo, often together with Epstein, learn about their party habits, meet their friends and colleagues of yore, hear them as they rehearse and perform, and relate to them on a profoundly human level, rather than at the level of untouchable superstars.

The striking thing in the film is the contrast starkly revealed between the rough-and-ready boys, with their working-class accents and manners, and the refined, impeccably tailored, elegant Epstein, whose personal style masked his attraction to "rough trade," as made clear from interviews with those close to him. Though Wall steers away from delving into the details of Epstein's love life, he in no way shies from conveying the nature of Epstein's desires. The film revels in telling the story of Epstein's gayness, in many ways emphasizing that being gay determined the course of his life. In particular, especially in a contemporary interview with an affable and articulate Paul McCartney, it seems clear that the question of whether Epstein's well-known love for John Lennon remained unrequited or not becomes central to almost everything else in assessing the man's life and tragic death.

Did he or did he not have a one-time fling with Lennon in the south of Spain, just a week after Julian Lennon was born? Did he or did he not commit suicide over the hopelessness of his love, or was his death accidental, as officially ruled? "The trouble is, the only two people who really know are dead," says Wall, who nimbly raises the issues in the film, delicately balancing points of view and, perhaps, softening the edges of the controversy. Moreover, he adds, "Lennon would certainly not have been above saying one thing to this person and another thing to that person."

The film's US producer, Debbie Geller, joins with Wall in explaining that "one of the evergreen and reductionist views of the Beatles and Brian Epstein was that Epstein was in love with John Lennon, and that was really his only interest in the group, and that had he not had that hangdog, unrequited love—which only came true in that one little instance in Barcelona—then the Beatles never would have happened." This view, she insists, does "a real disservice to Brian Epstein."

Lennon the tease

Geller does feel that Lennon most likely teased Epstein about being gay, maybe even manipulated his attraction "as a way of maintaining power over him." From the outset, Epstein's gayness was known to the Beatles and completely accepted. But a bit of

perversity in the relationship seemed inevitable.

"Brian liked a bit of punishment," says Wall. "So Lennon—that was his stock in trade, dishing out, taking people to the end of their tether, seeing how far he could push them. And they were all very amusing, witty, but Lennon had that sort of ambitiousness about it, seeing what he could do next."

In the film, McCartney addresses the question of whether Epstein and Lennon ever had sex, and considers the possibility unlikely but not impossible. Even if something did happen between them, though, he believes the matter relatively insignificant.

McCartney's obvious eagerness to address the question on screen is remarkable. Geller explains that during the interview, McCartney said: "Are you going to ask about his being gay? No one ever asks me about that." Considering the extent to which the Beatles' lives and careers have been put under a microscope, this omission in the record seems astounding, but it helps explain McCartney's readiness to take part in the film project. Says Wall: "He didn't need any persuasion, because he himself had come to this point where he thought it was time to tell the story. He was quite

clear that he wanted to do it because it was time the record was set straight, and that Epstein had been largely forgotten and hadn't been given his due."

The portrait of Epstein that emerges is one of a fantastically ambitious, driven, fastidious and brilliantly passionate man, handsome yet woefully unlucky in love, who repeatedly put himself in harm's way because of his secret desires.

Apart from his obvious (and necessarily platonic) love for his "boys," Epstein was never able to establish a lasting love relationship. One California lad, Diz Gillespie, whom some characterize as a hustler, for a time seemed to be working out for Epstein. But the relationship turned sour.

"Everybody's down on Diz," says Wall. "But Epstein seemed to find some kind of consolation in Diz, although Diz fucked him around knowingly."

And thus was gay life in Britain, even for the man who helped move his once bombed-out, burned-out country back into modernity and renewed prestige on the world stage. ▼

The Brian Epstein Story plays the Castro, part of SFILGFF, June 19 at 12:30 p.m.

VIDEO VOICEOVER

Necessary action

by John R. Killacky

Seizures at bedtime. MRIs locate a tumor inside the spinal cord. A hospital gurney takes me into overhead white light. I wake up screaming, covered in blood and iodine, paralyzed from the neck down. Body and mind are ripped apart. I cannot stop the jerking of my limbs, unclench my hand, or move my toes. There is no location on my left side and no sensation on my right.

All I have is Larry. His eyes say, "Don't die." Dawn is the worst—with him asleep and the medical shifts changing, I stare back at the world, whimper, and cry. What's the movie today? I fantasize getting to the window, breaking the glass, slitting my throat.

Two boys down the hall—motorcycle crashes screwed cages into their skulls. No one's told them they'll never leave. The elegant woman across the way—flawless on top, but her legs are dead. Another surgery gone wrong. My roommate lost toes to diabetes and had another stroke. His wife screams on the phone to come home.

People worse off make me feel less sorry for myself, until someone more mobile shows up. I'd rather be alone glaring at my swollen and skewed left side that is flaccid, sagging and lifeless. My movie in this room has the helmet kids not shrieking, the young men walking upright, the old ones not drooling, and me tapping my fingers.

Six weeks in the hospital and two months in a wheelchair at home, then I navigate life on the outside. Alarmed expressions, sympathetic smiles, and open-mouthed pity: the more generous people are to me, the more I resent them. Few really care to know, most

page 46 ▶

THE CAMPUS DOUBLE HEADER

The New Meat Campus is proud to present two action-packed world premieres the weekend of San Francisco's Gay Pride: **SEX PACK 2** and **THE BARE DICK PROJECT**.

On June 24th, JD Slater and Chris Ward of **RAGING STALLION STUDIOS** present **SEX PACK 2** at 9pm. Stay for the champagne cast party with live performances of Frank Parker and Joe Stack, plus appearances by **SURPRISE GUESTS CELEBRITIES**.



JD Slater and Chris Ward present

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Allan Alan Pictures present

JUNE 25: **BARE DICK PROJECT** @ 9:30pm

THE BARE DICK PROJECT

On June 25th, Allan Alan Pictures present **THE BARE DICK PROJECT** at 9:30pm. In December of 1999, three cute film students disappeared in the woods near Guernville, California while shooting a documentary. Although their footage was discovered later in a small Castro Art House Theater, their girlfriends never saw them again. This is their story. Meet the stars at a champagne reception immediately following the screening.

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The Dot-Cum Lounge and Smoke and Mirrors, a queer internet and multimedia giant are offering classes starting in July in the only clothing optional, sex friendly computer room in the world. Want to learn Photoshop, web page design or Flash but didn't want to go to one of those stodgy schools? Well here is your chance. Come in to the new Meat Campus and pick up a class menu. You'll even learn how to put a six-pack on that photo of you before you send it to that guy you have been chatting with across the ocean.

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Penisspotting 2000

Playing hard to get at SFILGFF

by Gary Morris

Like birdwatchers, cockwatchers have their cherished spots for indulging their hobby. Unfortunately, some locales that could be expected to yield treasures in this realm often disappoint. Bars can be a bore with nary a dick in sight after a hard evening of cruising; bushes can scratch sensitive skin; and even our beloved back alleys, gutters, and toilets can leave even the hardest queen soiled and unsatisfied. Little wonder, then, that many a local penisspotter turns to what is often ripe territory indeed, the annual San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival.

Some years the fest offers a bumper crop of cock, other years only a smattering of images of our spongy-tissued little pal. This year's admittedly unscientific sampling, sad to report, falls into the latter category. Still, there are enough appearances to make it worth donning safari hat and lognette, and proceeding on the hunt.

Dick aficionados have every right to expect a documentary about LA's male prostitutes to bare all, and Fenton Bailey and Randy Barbato's *101 Rent Boys* kindly obliges. The "boys" — some of whom look old enough to have spawned two generations of competition for themselves — discuss all the usual topics, but for some viewers the words fade fast as the

filmmakers' \$50 bills open not only the boys' mouths, but in some cases their pants.

The fest includes less jaded penises, too. In Phillippe Vallois's 1980 queer classic *We Were One Man*, set in World War II, the love affair between a goofy Frenchman and a German soldier gives many opportunities for innocent male nudity. The Frenchman takes a shower, does naked calisthenics, and cavorts *au naturel* through the French countryside in pursuit of his Aryan ideal, while the latter also has enough exposure to satisfy discriminating dickophiles.



From *We Were One Man*

Fetishists will enjoy a scene in which the two unleash their schlongs and giddily urinate into cups, a conceit far more likely to be seen in a film made 30 years ago than today.

A minor spotting can be found in Robert Kennedy's short *Hi, I'm Steve*, from the *Fun in Boys' Shorts* program. The title character's search nets him two baskets — one an authentic dick, the other a picnic basket carried by the same person strolling down the beach. Another naked beach queen can be found strutting briefly through Zachie Achmat's fine documentary *Apostles of Civilized Vice*. This one is an authentic naked South African homosexual, seen in historical footage.

Harder pleasures in this area can be found in Pansy Division's music video *Vicious Beauty* in the *Boys by the Bay* program. Shot in MTV-verité style — though too hardcore for that wimpy cable channel — the video is the Pansies' paean to a hunky high school basher who, shock of shocks, turns up in a queer porn film. Happily, this transition is shown in all its splendor, with hard-ons compet-

ing for screen time with the group's sweaty brand of fag rock.

Pricks in high heels

Even hardened cockologists might not think to look at a lesbian movie for dick, but sure enough, in the tradition of festival surprises, there's plenty of prick in the tandem featurettes *Hard Love* and *How to Fuck in High Heels*, directed by Shar Rednour and Jackie Strand. Yes, yes, purists will complain that these aren't cocks at all, simply dildos. But the dykes' thrusting power and sheer brio as they ram their girlfriends into ecstasy surely make them of at least passing interest to open-minded dicksters. These films get points also for using candy-colored schlongs, adding a festive, fun air to the heavy breathing.

Ironically, some of this year's films cry out for prick imagery but fail to satisfy. Jochen Hick's *No One Sleeps*, for example, has two key elements that would normally promise a proliferation of cock — a German director and numerous scenes in San Francisco's sex clubs. But — no cock. Indeed, the film goes to irritating lengths to disguise our purple-headed pal, from blatant strategic blanket placement to inelegant pirouette-like moves by the film's nude, hunky men as they jump in and out of each other's arms. Perhaps the plot's clumsy combination of AIDS theorizing, a gay serial killer, and opera confused the director's priorities.

Eagle-eyed queens may have luck penetrating the shadows that inevitably swathe some of the fest's penises. Gerardo Vera's fine Spanish feature *Second Skin*, for example, is as psychologically upfront as it is anatomically subtle, with the sexy Javier Bardem moving a tad too quickly for the normal-visioned viewer to check out the goods. Some may recall that Bardem did reveal his substantial anatomy in 1992's *Jamon, Jamon*. Alas, *Second Skin* doesn't give us the chance to see if, like Bardem himself, his dick has gotten bigger and more alluring over the years.

Even viewers with a spyglass won't find any penises in films with hunks who, in a just world, would happily unzip. The star of Aisling Walsh's *Forgive and Forget* has charms surpassing most porn stars. Ditto the gorgeous country boy from Liu Bingjian's *Men and Women*, as well as the seductive Charles from Rodrique Jean's *Full Blast*. But why carp? There's always next year. ▼

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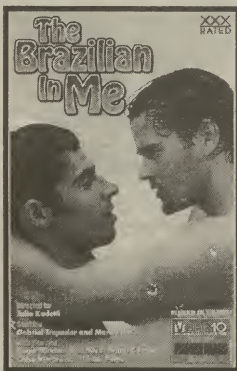
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The cast from *How to Fuck in High Heels*

Updating the Bros. Grimm

Magic's 'Kissing the Witch'

by Richard Dodds

Kissing the witch is a perilous business," says one of the witches in Emma Donoghue's new play. It is also liberating.

In her book *Kissing the Witch*, Irish-born lesbian writer Donoghue replays 13 fairy tales from the women's point of view, creating an often bleak and unforgiving landscape where marrying the prince doesn't necessarily mean happily ever after. For the stage adaptation, debuting at the Magic Theatre, Donoghue has chosen five of those stories to carry her message that redemption must start from within.

And while her vocabulary remains true to ancient storytelling styles, and such buzz words as "empowerment" don't emerge, the women in these stories all find power only by realizing that well-worn paths don't necessarily lead to happiness. Sometimes, one must kiss the witch, or at least embrace what society may tell you is dangerous or foolish or wrong.

In the world that Donoghue evocatively invokes, the only power the witches possess has been given to them by the needy, the fearful, and the guilt-plagued. "A witch is a woman who has stumbled on a bit of power," says

one of the eponymous characters. They are often sought out by a woman who may want to quicken a man's blood or bring back her own, though these sage witches offer unheeded counsel before granting wishes that will lead the petitioners to the same realizations.

The five interrelated tales that make up *Kissing the Witch* are based on stories popularized by the Brothers Grimm, but with one exception, the original elements have been changed so that magical transformations of a little mermaid, for example, become the metaphor for a poor woman seeking the attention of a rich merchant. Only in one case, the opening tale based on "Beauty and the Beast," is the source material clearly obvious, yet this is one of the two instances where lesbian love provides salvation for both the beauties and the beasts.

Stylishly written, Donoghue's stories have been brought to edgy, atmospheric life in director Kent Nicholson's mostly somber production. Emily Ackerman, Cambron Williamson, and Margaret Schenck play the witches as well as the women whose lives they touch. They all bring strong and distinct personalities to their roles. Mark Phillips plays all the men, who aren't so much evil as they are obstacles on the road to self-fulfillment.



Witches Margaret Schenck, Emily Ackerman and Cambron Williamson

Donoghue's book is subtitled *Old Tales in New Skins*, which is a perfect description of these stories brought to life at — how appropriate — the Magic Theatre. ▼

Kissing the Witch will run through June 25 at the Magic Theatre. Tickets are \$25-\$30. Call 441-8822 or visit www.magictheatre.org.

Backstage

◀ page 32

when they can be put to work."

Gaveston will run through June 24. For more information, call 648-8439.

Feedback on 'Edward'

Not unexpectedly, *Edward II* at ACT provoked a large, vocal, and varied audience response to the très-gay production rife with sex, nudity, and violence. There was love and hate for the show, and it crossed the lines of sexual orientation.

Some of those who complained loudest about director Mark Lamos' aggressively queer production were gay men. "They were the people who felt it was much too focused on promiscuity, and that issues of promiscuity have dogged the gay community," ACT artistic director Carey Perloff said. "They felt it was perpetuating stereotypes."

But Perloff, who has spent a lot of time on the phone with audience members because of *Edward II*, also heard from happy gay theatergoers. "I got a phone call yesterday from a man who said, 'I'm

60something, I'm a vet, I'm a gay man with four children, and seeing my world represented on the stage of a mainstream theater meant more to me than anything I've ever seen in San Francisco."

While *Edward II* both gained and lost audiences because of its gay agenda, attendance was an average 85 percent of capacity, not as good as *Threepenny Opera* and *Invention of Love* this season, but better than *Wrong Mountain* and *House of Mirth*.

Despite the theater's efforts to alert audiences to the nature of the production, there were higher numbers of walkouts than usual. Perloff agreed that male homosexuality remains a hot-button issue, even in San Francisco. "Yeah, for some reason it's really surprising that that is still a big issue," she said.

"But does that mean we're not going to do gay-themed work? No."

But the coming season, which still has one slot to be filled, doesn't appear to have any gay-themed productions. "You never know," Perloff said. "Stay tuned." ▼

Richard Dodds can be reached at BARstage@aol.com.

Queer as Folk 2

◀ page 36

boys get a great chance to unload when Stuart, Vince, and Nathan's mothers have a kitchen-table confab over their sons' sexuality. Vince's mom tries to make it easier on Stuart's mom with the remark: "Try not to think about the ass thing, and you'll be fine." But then the women take it further with their own ribald reminiscences of heterosexual anal intercourse.

The creators of the series say this installment is the absolute end of *Queer As Folk*, and the final resolution supports this assertion. The lunacy ascends to its next log-

ical level with some interesting computer graphics and a conclusion that is part fantasy, part metaphor. Any gay man who started life in a small town will understand the ultimate choice of Stuart and Vince. Their optimism and determination speak volumes about all queer boys and girls who are determined to create a life on their own terms. In its portrayal of this phenomenon, *Queer As Folk* has guaranteed itself a permanent place of honor in the pantheon of queer cinema. ▼

Queer as Folk 2 plays the SFILGFF on Wed., June 21, 10:15 p.m., at the Roxie.

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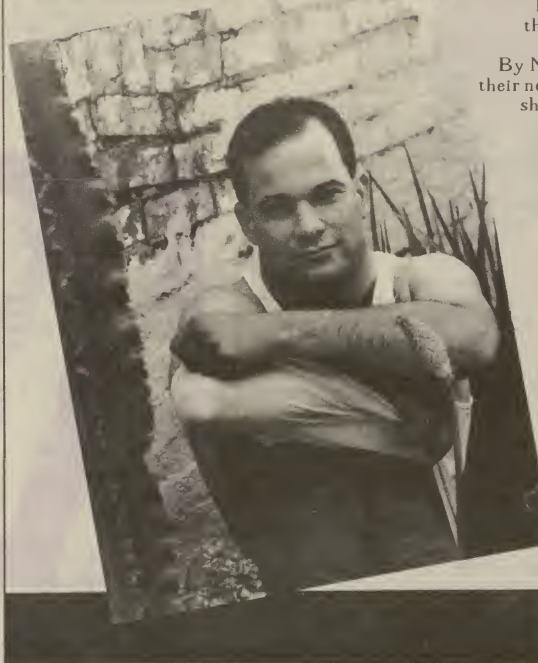
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OUT&ABOUT

Calendare

by Mark Mardon



Peggy L'Eggs with host Steve Murray

A really big shew

He likens himself to Ed Sullivan, and in many respects he embodies that great showman's gift for showcasing talent, but **"Viva Variety"** creator and host **Steve Murray** is all San Francisco, and all queer. With a vibrant stage personality that easily garners audience rapport, Murray is also one of this city's most indefatigable promoters, pushing his product — an old-fashioned talent/variety show modeled on the Ed Sullivan format — with the fervor of an evangelist:

"In 1999, I began the 'Viva Variety' series with a threefold mission: to highlight, support, and encourage gay art in all the performance forms, to entertain and document the shows, and to contribute to the community."

And what a contribution it has been — with this, his ninth show in the series, Murray can justly take pride in having aimed the spotlight on the likes of cabaret artists **Matthew Simmons** (aka **Peggy L'Eggs**), **Matthew Martin**, comedian **Karen Ripley**, actor **Brian Yates**, country music artists **J Byrd Hosch** and the **Kuntry K's**, the theatrical comedy troupe **Latin Hustle**, and singer/songwriter **Laura Chandler**, among too many other local stars to count.

With "Viva Variety IX" coming up on Tuesday, June 20 at Theatre Rhinoceros, Murray is continuing his crusade by welcoming to the stage Brian Yates, flagging sensation **Centrifugal Force**, modern-dance duo **Kunst-Stoff**, comedians **Tom Ammiano** and **Sabrina Matthews**, the ever-popular, audience favorite **Peggy L'Eggs**, vocalist **Natalie Amaya** (from "Selena Forever"), a cappella groups **From Top to Bottom** and **Copper Wimm** (Spin Records), and singer/songwriter **Garrin Benfield** (who will soon be embarked on a musical tour of California wineries, opening shows for the legendary Boz Scaggs).

The real undiscovered talent at "Viva Variety" is Steve Murray himself, a model for variety-show success. He moved to San Francisco from New Jersey in 1978, and in the mid 1980s became an AIDS caregiver and marijuana activist while holding down a computer job and launching various enterprises. When he leaped into "Viva Variety," it was in part to contribute to such causes as The Brownie Mary Fund, The Black Coalition on AIDS, LYRIC, Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services and others. The show this coming Tuesday will benefit the Marin-county LGBT organization Spectrum.

The rest, as they say, is showbiz. ▼

"Viva Variety IX" plays on Tuesday, June 20, 8pm at Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. Tix \$16 at A Different Light Bookstore. Reservations: 863-0741, ext. #2.



Bad boyz at the Stud get good and nasty during "Reform Skool." See Thursday.

Fri 16

New Conservatory Theatre Center

"The Secret of the Old Queen" by Timothy Cope, with music by Paul Boesing, directed by John Sowle. Someone has been preying on Bayport's "Bachelor Elite" and eccentric millionaire Cornelius Digby hires teen-age sleuths Frank and Joe Hardy to guard a priceless "art object." Who is the sinister stranger who keeps harassing the Boys? \$20 Fri. & Sat. \$15 Thu. & Sun. 8pm (2pm Sun.; no show Sun. June 25). 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market). 861-8972.

ODC Performance Gallery

Nat'l. Queers Arts Fest presents Kate Bornstein and Barbara Carrellas in "Too Tall Blondes Do Sex, Death & Gender." \$15. 8pm. Also on June 17. 3153 17th St. (at Shotwell). Tix/info: 552-7709; www.queerculturalcenter.org

Dance Mission

SF Lesbian & Gay Dance Fest presents "Program 1: The Dance Bazaar," a multi-dimensional circus sideshow featuring performances by Yanis Adoniou and Tomi Paasonen of Kunst-Stoff, Jesselitte Bie of Steamroller, Sara Felder, Charlie Hosgood, Tina Banchemo, Krissy Keefer and Dance Brigade, and others. \$15 adv.; \$17 door. 8pm. 3316 24th St. 826-4401.

SomArts

Nat'l. Queer Arts Fest presents "Liquid Fire 2000: Unleash the Fire," directed by Verinica C. Combs, featuring a fierce and fiery cast of ten lesbians and bisexual women of color who reclaim and celebrate erotic power. \$15 adv.; \$20 door. 8pm. Also June 17, 18, 22 & 24. SomArts Cultural Center, 934 Brannan St. (at 8th St.). Info: 552-7709; www.queerculturalcenter.org

Luna Sea

Nat'l. Queer Arts Fest and Luna Sea Women's Perfor-

mance Project present "Chutzpah: Jewish Dykes Perform." \$10-\$15 sliding. 8pm. Also on June 17. 2940 16th St. #216-C (at S. Van Ness). 863-2989.

New Langton Arts

"Alone," the premiere screening of a collection of videos that omit all representation of human beings, yet which communicate ideas about the human condition. Curated by Craig Goodman, a video artist and member of the electronic-music group the Helen Lundy Trio. With video artists D-L Alvarez, Rex Ray, Karla Milosevich and others. \$8 (\$6 students/seniors/members). 8pm. 1246 Folsom St. 626-5416.

Jon Sims Center

AIReSpace Artist in Residence Rachel Short presents a workshop production of "Lulu and other Heavenly Creatures," a ritualistic performance to stir the imagination with surreal angels and archetypes. She draws her inspiration from the ocean, the moon, and her magic dove Lulu. \$5-\$10 sliding (NOTAFLÖF). 8:30pm. 1519 Mission St. (at 11th St.). Info: www.jonsimsctr.org

Magic Theatre

"Killing the Witch," by

Emma Donoghue, a revisionist and comedic retelling of five traditional fairy tales. Donoghue writes about women, treacherous, courageous, openly sensual, some lesbian, some not, and puts them at the center of fantastical tales that never end "happily ever after." 8:30pm. Bldg. D, Ft. Mason Center. 441-8822. www.magictheatre.org

Noh Space

"Five Modern Noh Plays by Yukio Mishima," produced by Theater Rhubarb. Mishima decorates ancient narratives with Western dramatics to critique the American cultural invasion, sexual repression, and existential hopelessness in post-Bomb Japan. \$15 (\$10 seniors/students). 8pm. Thru June 24. 2840 Mariposa (at Alameda). 751-0439. www.theaterrhubarb.com

550 Barneveld

Thump Radio presents an all-night trance/drum & bass dance party featuring live sets by Kohboh (Germany) and Saiko-Pod (UK), plus an assortment of top-notch DJs. \$15 b4 11pm; \$20 after. 21+w/D. Info: www.thump-radio.com

Sat 17

SF Hiking Club

Join other outdoor lovers for a Redwood Regional Park hike and enjoy the views from the ridge and the cool, lush redwoods. It's a moderate nine-mile hike with less than 1,000-ft. elevation gain. Meet 9am under large Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Club info: 487-6410; www.sfhiking.com

Mission Cultural Center

Queer Latina/o Festival 2000 presents the "First Annual Hank Tavera Fund Benefit," an evening of theater, music, dance and spoken word. \$15 & up. 6pm reception; 7pm show. 2868 Mission St. (at 24th St.). Info: 648-3702; www.quelaco.org

Dance Mission

SF Lesbian & Gay Dance Fest presents "Program II — The Long and Short of Us," featuring Anne Bluenthal, Winifred R. Harris, Brian Chung, Jose Navarrete, Diane Shields and Tomi Paasonen. \$15 adv.; \$17 door. 8pm. 3316 24th St. 826-4401.



The gay cappella singing group From Top to Bottom perform at Metropolitan Community Church. See Saturday.



The fabulous Justin Bond returns to San Francisco to host a special edition of Trannyshack at The Stud. See Tuesday.

Jon Sims Center

Dance Network presents "Soul—O's, a variety of Bay Area Butoh, including a large group improvisation. With featured performers Takami, Shinichi Momo Koga, Eugenio Brodbeck, and Molly Barrons. 8pm. Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts, 1519 Mission St. (btwn 11th St. & S. Van Ness). 648-1177.

Metropolitan Community Church

From Top to Bottom, the gay cappella singing group, perform doo wop, pop, R&B, folk and comedy. Featuring Aurelio Font (soprano/counter-tenor), Scott Marabillas (alto/counter-tenor), Thom Phillips (tenor), David Dobrusky (bass) and Wade Gardner. \$13 adv.; \$15 door. 8pm. 150 Eureka St. (near 18th St.). Tix at A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro St.

First Unitarian Universalist Church

The Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco hosts the "22nd Annual San Francisco Pride Concert" under the direction of Michael Carlson. Included on the bill will be the SF Gay Men's Chorus under the direction of Dr. Stan Hill, the SF Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band conducted by Jadine Louie, and Out on a Clef, the lesbian barbershop quartet. Featuring the orchestral premiere of "The Second Harvest" by composer June Bonacich, along with arrangements of popular tunes. \$12

adv.; \$15 door. 8pm. Corner of Geary & Franklin. Tix/info: 861-7067; www.lgcsf.org. Tix at A Different Light Bookstore on Castro St. and Mama Bear's bookstore on Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

Grupo Socio Cultural Hispano

"Celebrando el día de la Orgullo Gay," a Pride Day Celebration and potluck for all Spanish-speaking Bay Area gay men and their friends, held in a private home. For details, call Javier at 550-0388 or Andy at 522-1894.

New Langton Arts

"Trio Festival," featuring Spiritpark (Ronald Thompson/8-string guitar; Dan Plosney/reeds & percussion; Karen Stackpole/gongs & percussion) and The Bill Horvitz Trio (Bill Horvitz/guitar; Steve Adams/sax; Joseph Sabella/drums). \$10. 7:30pm. 1246 Folsom St. (btwn 8th & 9th sts.). 626-5416.

Bridge Theatre

Peaches Christ presides over "Midnight Mass," a night of audience participation in the screening of Paul Verhoeven's infamous camp travesty "Showgirls." The Bridge will be decked out Vegas style, with the loveliest ladies in all of SF performing burlesque. Free lap dances with every large popcorn (just remember: not every lap dancer is a beauty queen). \$5. Midnight. 18+. Landmark's Bridge Theatre, 3010 Geary Blvd.

Sun 18

Stern Grove

Stern Grove Festival presents the dynamic Michael Tilson Thomas conducting the San Francisco Symphony. They'll play selections by Aaron Copland ("Fanfare for the Common Man"), Sergei Rachmaninoff (Piano Concerto No. 2, featuring pianist Fabio Bidini), and Ludwig van Beethoven (Symphony No. 5). A family affair. Bring picnic and arrive early to claim a patch of ground. Free (sponsored by Bay View Bank). 2pm. 19th Ave. & Sloat Blvd. 252-6252. www.sterngrove.org

Dolores Park Cafe

Able Together hosts "Cafe A-T 2000," a bunch of good men (disabled and nondis-

abled) getting together for brunch, hosted by Chris Hewitt. Wheelchair accessible. 2-5pm. 501 Dolores St. (at 18th St.). RSVP: 522-9091.

New Conservatory Theatre Center

"New York or Bust," in which "America's Favorite Dragapella Beautyshop Quartet," The Kinsey Sicks, preview material for their open-ended Off-Broadway run scheduled for this summer. \$20. 7:30pm. Sun., Mon., & Tue. thru July 4. 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market). 861-8972.

New Langton Arts

"Trio Festival," featuring Actual Size (Bruce Ackley/sax; George Cremaschi/bass; Garth Powell/percussion), Splatter Duo (Gino Robair & Myles Boisen w/special guest), and Big Sky (Henry Kuntz & Ron Heglin/trombone; Brian Godchaux/violin). \$10. 7pm. 1246 Folsom St. (btwn 8th & 9th sts.). 626-5416.

ODC Performance Gallery

"Café Flamenco," featuring Yaelisa and Caminos Flamen-cos Dance Company. \$10. 7pm. 3153 17th St. (at Shotwell). 863-9834.

Mon 19

Piaf's

QComedy.com openly presents "Gay Comedy Showcase," hosted by Scott Capurro, with Regina Stoops, Tim Tayag, Carla Clay, Gretchen Rootes, Adam Rodriguez, Bridget Schwartz, and DeeDee Flores. \$5. 8pm. 1686 Market St. (at Gough). 541-5610.

Glama-Rama

Opening reception: "Transformation," artwork by Kathy Fenker, famed for her sequined sculptures. Her new works are "composite paintings illustrating the manifestation of the human id." Free. 6-9pm. 417 South Van Ness (at 15th St.). 861-GLAM.

New Langton Arts

"Trio Festival," presenting Larry Ochs Sax and Drumming Core and the Steve Adams Trio. \$10. 7:30pm. 1246 Folsom St. 626-5416.

Tue 20

SomArts

Nat'l. Queer Arts Fest presents "Explosive Agenda: Somatic Landscapes," a lecture on Jerome Caja's art by Thomas Avena and Adam Klein, curators of the exhibition "Odyssey and Underworld." \$10. 7:30pm. 934 Brannan (at 8th St.). 552-7709; www.queerculturalcenter.org



Alvin A Go-Go and Deena Davenport host the *I Married an Earthling* book-release party at The Circle Club. See Wednesday.

The Stud

"Trannyshack," co-hosted by legendary drag sensation Justin Bond (Kiki of Kiki and Herb fame), fresh (sort of) from New York City. This is the hot spot for the hippest, flippest, wickedest local transnities, as well as visiting drag luminaries. Bond will let her hair down for this one night only, dropping the Kiki schtick and performing as plain ol' Justin. With co-hostess Heklina appearing as her washed-up self. Miss Chocolate at the door. \$5. Doors open 10pm. Show at midnight. Open till 3am. 399 9th St. (at Harrison). 922-6201.

Wed 21

Harvey Milk Academy

Nat'l. Queer Arts Fest presents pioneer lesbian artist and activist Harmony Hammond presenting "Lesbian Art in America: A Contemporary History." \$15. 7:30pm. Tix/info: 552-7709; www.queerculturalcenter.org

A Different Light

Reading & booksigning: Fog City Press presents *Rebel Without Applause: Tales from the Castro Renaissance*, with C. Whitefeather Daniels, and *Confessions of a Jewish Nun: The True-Life Adventures of Sister Sadie, Sadie, the Rabbi Lady*, as told through Gil Block. Free. 7:30pm. A Different Light Bookstore, 486 Castro St.

The Circle Club

Baby Judy's presents *I Married an Earthling* book-release party, celebrating the publication by Manic D Press of Alvin Orloff's madcap, gay-themed, sci-fi romantasy novel. Featuring DJs Deena

Davenport, Alvin A Go-Go,

and Lars, with special guest diva Connie Champagne accompanied by Birdie Bob Watt. Free. 8pm-midnight. 811 Valencia St. Info: www.popflip.com

Cowell Theater

Nat'l. Queer Arts Fest presents Axis Dance Company in the premiere of "The Ground, the Air, and Places in Between," new repertory works by Bill T Jones, Joe Goode, Sonya Delwaide, and Johanna Haigood. \$18 (\$15 students/seniors/disabled; \$10 under 12). 8pm. Fort Mason Center. Tix/info: 441-3687; www.ticketweb.com

Piaf's

Hawaiian cabaret diva Matt Yee performs "The Love & Liberate Show," with fab costumes, original songs and medleys, and crazy characters. \$10. 9pm Wed., Thu. & Sun; 10pm Fri. & Sat. 1686 Market St. (at Gough). 864-3700.

The EndUp

"House of Stone," featuring guest DJ Carlos along with resident DJs Blackstone and Sam. \$5 b4 11pm; \$7 after. 21+ w/ID. 401 Sixth St. (at Harrison).

354 11th St.

"Cream Wednesdays," a dance party hosted by drag-trash superstar Alexis Arquette, with resident DJs J.C. and Pete and special guest DJ Fernando Arias. 9pm-2am. 21+ w/ID.

Thu 22

UCSF Mission Center

Trikone presents "DesiQ2000: Unfolding Visions," a confer-

ence bringing together the South Asian lesbian, gay and transgender community. Workshops, cultural programs, speeches, networking. \$100 registration (includes gala banquet on 6/23 at St. Mary's Church, 1111 Gough St.). Thru June 24. 1855 Folsom St. (at 15th St.). Info: 789-7322; www.desiq2000.org

New Langton Arts

Concert: internationally renowned saxophonist John Butcher, on tour from the UK, performs free and structured improvisation both solo and accompanied by percussionist/thereminist Gino Robair and Bay Area bassist Matthew Sperry. \$8 (\$6 students/seniors). 8pm. 1246 Folsom St. 626-5416.

Kimo's

"Hex Appeal," weaving a mix of danceable darkness and destruction, featuring DJ Thee Sorceress. \$5. 9pm-2am. 21+ w/ID. 1351 Polk St. (at Pine).

City Nights

"Club Faith" celebrates Gay Pride with dance music by DJ Fox in the main room, along with resident DJs Blackstone and Ruben Mancias. Front room: DJs Jay-R and Larry. "Drag Races" show by Crys-T La Scivious. \$10. 9:30pm-2am. 18+ w/ID. 715 Harrison (at 3rd St.). 487-6616.

The Stud

"Reform Skool," featuring a live set by the gay hip-hop group Rainbow Flava performing hits from their new album, "Digital Dope." DJ Jeff Chandler starts it all off, "playing what it takes to get you goin'." Go-go boys will be tearing off their underwear and throwing them to lucky fans. Enter the go-go boy contest (\$200 first prize; sign up at the club or email re4mskool@aol.com). \$5 cover (free b4 10:30 or w/foreign passport). 10pm-4am. 21+ w/ID. 9th & Harrison.

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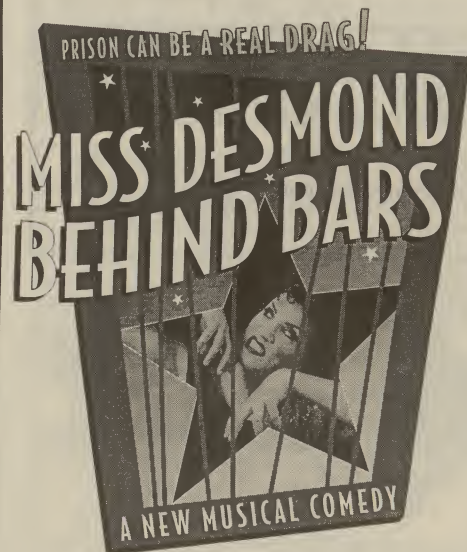
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From Atlanta to NYC

by Mister Marcus

Right on the heels of the Int'l. Mr. Leather 2000 weekend madness, big doings are afoot this weekend in Atlanta, that jewel of the South. The 5th Annual Southeast Leatherfest (SELF V) grabs the spotlight there, and it will be another occasion for which the who's who of the national leather community will gather to participate in workshops and demonstrations conducted by leathermen for leathermen.

Of course there will be play parties as well, but the highlights of the weekend are the selection of the 2000 International Slave & Master on Saturday night, and the Southeast Drummer and Drummer Boy competition on Friday night.

Long in the planning stages, SELF V has a distinguished list of people doing the lecturing and running the workshops, which offer something for almost anyone's taste.

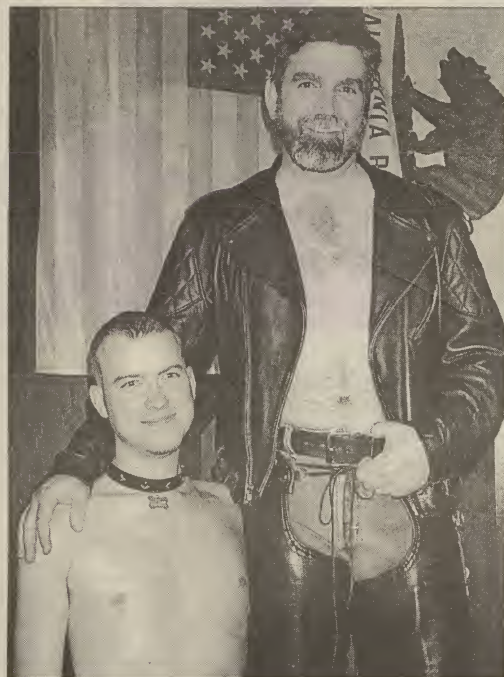
Needless to say, lots of San Franciscans will be there either lecturing, demonstrating or judging. It is my honor to join with the highly respected Mr. Frank Puckett in a workshop centering on the "old days".

Most of the action will take place in the Ramada Conference Center Hotel close to downtown Atlanta. No long bus treks to various sites by have yet been scheduled, but there will indeed be shuttles for the various bar tours planned.

To get you there in style, Delta Air Lines is offering special air fares, as is the Ramada for its rooms (call 1-800-2-RA-MADA).

I promise to bring you a full report on the happening next week.

If you're in the Big Apple this



Rod Wood (standing), Mr. Russian River Drummer 2000, took his place in the spotlight along with Brett Lallatin, Russian River Drummer Boy 2000. They won their titles last Saturday night, June 10, at the Russian River Eagle bar in Guerneville.



Bazaar

weekend, the is the place to be. on Saturday night is the 17th annual Leather Pride Night Auction at the Roxy. This is a major event which over the years has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for local charities.

Take it from me, there will be celebrity auctioneers and fun galore. But don't overdo it on Saturday night, for the

next day is the ever-growing Folsom Street East block party on West 13th at Washington. With luck, the weather will be fair, inviting out lots and lots of skin to bare.

Left coast news

Back here on this turf, action galore took place from San Jose all the way up to Guerneville.

Gay Pride weekend dominated in the South Bay. The parade on next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Weekend June 16-18

Southeast Leatherfest in Atlanta, with Int'l. Master & slave contest and Southeast Drummer & Drummer Boy contests, plus workshops, play parties and fun, fun, fun in the Deep South.

In New York City, Leather Pride Night humongous benefit auction at the Roxy on Saturday, and the fabulous Folsom Street East block party in Manhattan with leather, leather, everywhere. This is GMSMA's big annual fundraiser for the whole community.

Friday, June 16

Exiles of SF present "Canes, Clubs, Bludgeons & Rods" at the Women's Bldg., with doors open at 1930, program from 2000-2230. Sora Counts and Martha Equinox will demonstrate hot toys. Call 487-5170 or email: Exiles@TheExiles.org.

Saturday, June 17

Turf Club in Hayward closes after tonight's Skivvies Party and underwear auction at 2100. Bid on leather celebs to take it all off! Beer/soda bust for \$4 in underwear, or \$8 clothed.

Mr. Daddy's Rob Esmonde and Dyke Daddy Kat host a "Dyke Bust" at Daddy's. from 1600-1900, for \$7, all to benefit a local women's charity.

Sunday, June 18

Pegasus Motorcycle Owners Club ride to historic Jamestown today departing at 0930 from in front of Castro Theatre. For info: 621-1561.

Bears of SF beer/soda bust at the Lone Star, 1600-2000 for \$7 with raffles and those fab hot dogs! To benefit PAWS. Always fun with the BOSF.

For Father's Day, Leather Daddies of SF host a beer/soda bust at the Eagle, from 1500-1800. An \$8 donation gets you food and entertainment, plus

there'll be a \$100 cash raffle prize.

Wednesday, June 21

Underwear Buddies gather at 933 Harrison. No skid marks allowed! Need more info? Call 863-HEAD.

Leathermen's Discussion Group at Club Eros begins at 1930. The discussion has to do with Leather Pride. It's free!

Friday, June 23

Hottest event of the weekend (after the parade): Phoenix Uniform Club's 9th annual Uniform and Leather Ball in the Green Room of the War Memorial Bldg. (McAllister at Van Ness). It benefits the AEF. Ducats are \$50 advance or \$60/door, available at Daddy's, Leather Zone, Mr. S, Image Leather, and Worn Out West in SF, and at Leather Masters in San Jose. Enjoy Gail Wilson's City Swing, gourmet buffet, cocktails, uniforms, men, leather, and always a lot of out of towners and foreigners. Don't miss this one!

Saturday, June 24

In Norfolk, it's the Virginia Drummer and Boy contests with a "Night of Dancing, Diversity, Discovery & Discipline". Greet the meat at 2200; cocktail party dance at The Wave; silent auction, 50/50 raffle — all to benefit the Drummer Wing at the Leather Archives & Museum. Info: www.hometown-aoa.com/vadrummer.2000.

Donna Sachet's star-studded pride brunch at Stars (where else?) with room for only 225 people, to benefit Positive Resources. Tix are \$65, available now.

Silver Party at Pistons in Long Beach in honor of Scott Bloom, the first runner-up at I.M.L. 2000. First it was Mark Malan, then Sean Reilly, and now Mr. Bloom. Starts at 2000; hosted by Sean Reilly.

PORN

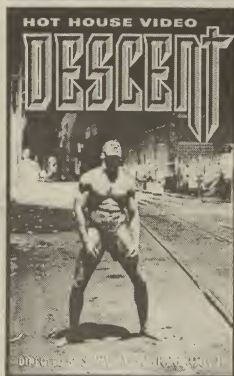
Sex with gargoyles

by John F. Karr

Over the years, I've developed a real prejudice against art porn. Now, I don't mean porn that's made with artistry. It's when pornographers are trying to be artsy that I get antsy. Even worse is when they think they're being deep. Fearing the worst dose of philosophical musing and artsy-fartsy excess, I let Hot House's much-ballyhooed *Descent* sit on my shelf for the longest time before I watched it. And although the video's opening sequence nearly scared me off, I was ultimately glad I stuck around.

The narrative portions of *Descent* are ponderous, grim. Hoary. Monks chant, bells chime, gargoyles leer. In the opening, a man flees in terror through desolate back alleys and crawls into a dumpster to die, as a narrator portentously intones about the terror and madness that chase the man, and the limbo in which he is trapped. In whatever purgatory it is (and which the narrator successively names as the cathedral, the future, the wreckage of what was human civilization, and the ruins of the man's mind), the man witnesses and experiences several scenes of hedonism that are meant to purge him of his neurosis as they entertain us.

Despite some really sexy stuff going on, however, the events only seem to exacerbate the man's crisis. He digs his own grave, throws himself in, and is being buried alive when a breakthrough occurs. His confines fly away, and he finds



himself suddenly free in nature — the forest primeval, to be exact — where he's able to embrace a loving man.

If what *Descent* has on its mind is the age-old message that we shouldn't repress our primal urges, it's obtuse, heavy-handed, and particularly misleading in the choice of its star, for there is fa-

Aiden Shaw that's repressed. The video is, however, notably successful in two key areas. For one, director Steven Scarborough has elicited striking lighting and videography from his collaborators; the scenes in the expansively designed limbo cathedral are also luminescent and warm, with a presence and neon clarity that is as novel in porn as it is memorable. A technical achievement award, please.

Grand slam

Of greater concern, perhaps, is what you've tuned in for: the sex. Yes, a lot of it is truncated, abruptly edited to fulfill the tortured dictates of the scenario. But several set pieces are allowed to unfold in full, and are blessed with performers who more than live up to their star reputations. In particular, there is a sensational sequence with a buffed Todd Gibbs and the fierce Zak Anders. What a wow of a fuck this is, with hair-raising shots of Anders' stiff cock slamming from side to side as he bounces with fury astride Gibbs.

This scene is seconded by the ferocity of Marcus Iron with Aiden Shaw, in which the harsh lighting and grainy film processing match the performers' gritty passion. Oooh, this is torrid. Iron is later joined by Blake Harper and Jason Branch. This couple's heroic fucking technique is unmatched, and their threeway with Iron is potent. It's capped by an orgasm from Harper that is resisted for so long, and then so prolonged in the actual event, that it's distressful for me to recall while keeping my fingers on the keyboard.

And then there are three successive duos, featuring among them the deluxe Damian Ford, lean and mean Rick Allen, and most especially the magnificently built and butch Mark Mason. What with salaciously sloppy cocksucking and some unforgiving fucking, it's a shame that these three couplings are delivered in a mere 17 minutes, as each one deserves more time.

So go on, call *Descent* art porn as it grasps for meaning. And then yelp when it grabs you by the balls. ▼



Karnal Knowledge

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

Sunday was colorful and well-attended, and afterward, there in the shadow of the Adobe building, Discovery Meadow was a sea of humanity gorging on food, beverage and informational booths. The weather couldn't have been better.

There were rock, Latino and country-western stages to get everybody dancing, and I.M.L. Bruce Chopnik, a South Bay native, made his appearance in the festival's Leather Zone. Mr. and Ms. Santa Clara County Ronnie and Ms. Lance were very visible, as were the San Jose imperial court members.

The food booths served up almost gourmet quality fare at not-unreasonable prices. My favorite were the portobello/pesto sandwiches at \$6 a clip.

But my heart was truly in a burrito, which, alas, I had to forego. Maybe I was in the wrong place, but I could not find a Latino food booth anywhere. What? Isn't this San Jose?

Ah, but there were so many handsome Latin men to distract me, I didn't really mind. For instance, roaming the venue was the fabulous George Gonzales, chair of the event, who did a great job. He expressed his thanks to all the volunteers, and I second that motion. Good work, everybody!

Meanwhile, on Saturday night up at the Russian River Eagle, "Jake" Schwartz and "Too Tall" Larry Boeger staged their first Russian River Mr. Drummer and Drummer Boy contests. Graylin

Thornton emceed, and the judges were Joe Gallagher, Eric Keith, Ray Perea (the first elected Mr. Drummer), Bauke Ylstra, Marty Epstein and Glenn Dixon.

The contest generated \$800 in proceeds destined for Food for Thought.

Four men vied for the Russian River Mr. Drummer title, and two boys duked it out for the Drummer Boy title. When all the ballyhoo was over and the votes were counted, Rod Wood of San Francisco and Guerneville was chosen Russian

River Drummer 2000, and Brett Lallatin became the new Drummer Boy. Those in the know say these two will be a team to reckon with at the Northern California Drummer contest next month.

So yes, it was a wonderful weekend for leather in Northern California, with balmy weather and lots of men getting it on. Let's hope the coming week is as full of fun and fundraising events where you are. Let's enjoy ourselves mightily as we contribute to the causes we all espouse. ▼

Lush life

by Sweet Lips

The Lush Lounge, on the site of the old 1100 Club, opened with a bang last weekend, with a three-day-long party. Steven, the owner, has put together a great piano club bar, and it opens daily at 4 p.m.

Well, the Swallow bar, for years an institution on Polkstrasse, has now closed and will re-open as a sports bar. It's the end of an era, fellows, but we hope everyone remembers the glory of a white swallow.

Remember, it's about freedom: San Francisco Gay Pride Parade 2000 starts at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, June 25. No matter how many times you're struttin' yourself down Market St., it's a day and an event not to be missed. That night at 7 p.m. at the Club Rendez-Vous: "Men of Exotica," a male strip show.

On Thurs., June 22, 7-10 p.m., it's the Stoli MiGs party at the Club R-V: three gorgeous pilots will suit you up for a free virtual reality ride, and \$1 from every Stoli cocktail will be donated to the Community Center Project of SF.

Welcome back from upstate NY, Tucker! Hey, Little Mikey of Reflections: you looked fabulous last Friday. Did I surprise you by coming in? Remember, Sweet Lips still has a few tricks up her sleeve! ▼



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UNDERWEAR BUDDIES

Out There

◀ page 30

of *Desire: Sexual Orientation and the Constructionist Controversy*, 1990) and other highfalutin' academics are correct in positing gayness as a peculiar type of modern ethnicity. We know the BCC are more than a little bit country, but just how gay is a stageful of foot-tappin', finger-snappin' dancin' boys? Mighty gay.

There are two weekends left of the SF Ethnic Dance Fest, whose website you can visit at www.worldartswest.org.

Miami vice

Despite our best efforts to the contrary, word leaked out that we were out of our town last week, recharging our batteries in Miami, "home of the Miami relatives." We steered clear of right-wing Cuban-American wackos, although we did endure the delusional *Marisleyis Gonzalez* on a local TV newscast. Incredibly, there she was at yet another press conference, with gloomy old *Uncle Lazo* at her side. Honey, your *quince minutos* are up!

It's the beginning of the hurricane season, but the only heavy weather in Miami Beach was Tropical Storm Out There. We blew into town just in time for the Brazilian Film Fest, the first night of which featured a free outdoor screening on the 17th St. beach and plenty of South American beef. The dulcet tones of Portuguese tickled our cochlea.

South Beach has experienced a glut of media attention recently: a front-page feature in the *NY Times* on SoBe's cult of physical beauty, then a p.2 thumbsucker in *USA Today*, to wit: "Is SoBe

passed?" The doomsayers cited the appearance of the Gap and other chain abominations in the Deco District, the same corporate monoculture that threatens SF and, indeed, everywhere. But we have news for the major media: SoBe will never be passé, so long as sailors call it a port of call — and there was plenty of seafood strutting around in their crisp Navy whites last week, as the tall ships docked in Miami harbor on their way to NYC for the 4th of July. We're talking triple-masters.

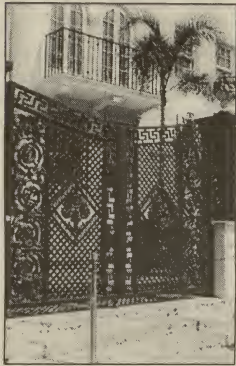
Out There swam in a bathtub-warm ocean, undeterred by life-guard warnings of "sea lice." We ate our meals outside at sidewalk cafés (when will our own supposedly sophisticated city end its idiotic ban on serving alcoholic beverages outside?) Everywhere we looked: hunky beefstud on the hoof. On the beach, in the surf. We'd have happily spent our vacation grooming them all of sea lice.

OT tried to pull an *Elían Gonzalez*, by swimming far out beyond the manmade sandbar, thrashing about and pretending to be shipwrecked. But no media-savvy fisherman appeared to rescue us, not even our fave lifeguard, *Paolo*.

As if we were not overstimulated enough, the Bungalow Bar, the cabana in the back of Twist, featured such prime entertainment as dancers *Rafael* from Venezuela and *Carlos* from Buenos Aires, up-close and personal. If you don't already know the old saw, SoBeans will be glad to remind you: "The farther south you go, the better it is."

A visit to *The Wolfsonian*, a museum of art and design from the period 1885-1945, sated our lust for streamlined moderne and the elegant simplicity of the Arts & Crafts movement.

The Miami press was nothing to write home about, although the *Miami Herald* did run a photo of postmodern diva *Laurie Anderson* on her birthday, which charmed us. The gay rags were mostly given over to photos of shirtless lunks with perma-grin in clubs. The alternative press included a franchise of the *New Times* media conglomerate, so we were able to ignore the very same syndicated features that we ignore at home.



The front steps of Villa Causina

All the tourbuses stopped at the front steps of Villa Causina, where designer *Gianni Versace* was mowed down by psycho killer *Andrew Cunanan* a few seasons back. A red velvet rope separates the tragic steps from the tourists' disposable cameras. Versace transformed the apartment building on Ocean Drive into his own palatial manse; he also bought the hotel next door and razed it to make room for his pool. Perhaps *Andrew* was just an overzealous historic preservationist?

Downwardly mobile

Star of stage and screen *Rita Moreno*, who opens June 21 at the Plush Room, is no stranger to up-close and personal encounters with large numbers of gay men, and no, we're not talking about *West Side Story*. Back in 1987, Moreno was one of the entertainers on the second RSVP Cruise ever. At the time, she declined an interview with our film critic *Robert Julian*, because his assignment was for *Honcho* magazine: a venue too raunchy for her tastes. But she was quite a trooper onboard, leading a queer snorkeling party into the bay at Grand Cayman Island, after island officials attempted to deny boarding rights when they discovered the boat was full of queers.

Disembarking was delayed two hours as the captain tried to avoid a major international incident — similar to the one that occurred last year when the same homo-

phobic island successfully denied boarding privileges to another gay cruise ship.

Miss Moreno, however, did not endear herself to the other "headliner" on the cruise, ventriloquist *Wayland Flowers*. The late Flowers was in quite a snit about Moreno when he and Julian sat down for a tête-à-tête. Evidently, Moreno was supposed to get off the ship and fly home just before Flowers and his puppet *Madame* boarded. However, the Oscar-, Tony-, Emmy-, and Grammy-winning actress was allegedly having such a good time, she not only declined to go home as scheduled, but refused to vacate her cabin — the one Flowers was promised. This forced Flowers into what he felt were inferior accommodations, and caused him to rant and rave about Moreno's high-handed and dismissive treatment of the comedian and his dummy. Talk about tempests and teapots! ▼

Documentaries

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tached.

Music queens of another stripe will have mixed reactions to David Jeffcock's panoramic history *Stagestruck: Gay Theater in the 20th Century* (6/24). The film effectively covers all the bases, from Oscar Wilde to Noel Coward to Martin Sherman, moving gracefully from biographical sketches to societal changes to scenes from the plays. But the latter are sometimes more jarring than helpful, as when we see the same actor playing both hyperbutch *Stanley Kowalski* and *Michael*, the tormented power-fag from *The Boys and the Band*.

Sex workers are less of a presence in this year's fest than in some previous years. Still, there's *Fenton Bailey* and *Randy Barbato*'s breathlessly awaited *101 Rent Boys* (6/16), the name perhaps a witty echo of those Taschen books with titles like *1,000 Nudes*. The filmmakers use the conceit of handing each of the subjects a \$50 bill, and the range of their reactions to it — some grabbing it pronto, some studying it suspiciously — hints at a variety of mindsets that go with their marketable flesh. With so many rent boys on display, it's hard to get to know particular ones, and a few themes run through many of these lives: molestation as children, broken homes, drug addiction, homelessness, betrayal by friends,

objectification, and a pervasive feeling of hopelessness. Some of the boys surprise us with an upbeat, positive vibe, but others are as bitter as Roberto, who, only 19, says with chilly calm, "I hate all my tricks."

The same directors, ironically, are responsible for a very different doc also in the fest: *The Eyes of Tammy Faye* (6/17). Some may wonder why the film is even included, given that Miss Tammy was a major architect — the directors call her the "Muse" — of right-wing homophobic televangelism. But Faye and ex-hubby *Jim Bakker*, as seen in the film, can be viewed as deviants in their own world, old-style hucksters full of personality and low-down kitschiness and, surprise, acceptance of homosexuality, all of which distinguish them from corporate-religious trash like *Falwell* and *Pat Robertson*. Faye's credentials as fag hag and female drag queen appear solid indeed, and one of the pleasures of this fun valentine to her is the revelation that there's an authentic and rather charming human being behind those buckets of mascara and rivers of tears. She was the first (and perhaps the only) major televangelist to heartily embrace both gay people and AIDS patients, so the least we can do is to return the embrace. ▼

For times and sites, call the SFILGFF hotline, 703-8663.

Necessary Action

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want only to be reassured. Each encounter makes me smaller.

Meeting other crips, I never ask my real questions. I'm frightened when Jack regresses, Stephanie gets depressed, Judy breaks her hand, or Mark dies. The movie here? Stephanie's legs untangle, Jack walks unassisted, Mark gets published, and Judy rides her horse with me running free. I still dream fully able; they all do, too.

Life at home revolves around getting to work and fitting in rehab, with Larry as my soccer mom. Cooking and cleaning, the dog and me; I'm a burden to him. While my relation to living remains elusive, I don't know how to ask his forgiveness to go first. As we drive across the Golden Gate Bridge, I imagine us as *Thelma and Louise*, blissfully accelerating into oblivion.

With no sensation, sex is purely visual. Reciprocating with my enfeebled fingers and locked-in neck is short-lived. Often I disassociate, to retrieve stored memo-

ries of thrusting, receiving, grasping, hardness, wetness, stickiness, and release. It's not enough. The movie should have us rolling around wrestling and jousting, fucking and sucking with gleeful abandon.

I'm despondent whenever my body fails, and it always fails me. Sadness and anger, frustration and tears are constant — but private. As the neuropathy increases in my legs, I obsess on long-term survivors whose overcompensating bent frames refuse to give in. My debilitation fuels self-loathing. I embarrass myself with fear and shame.

What I wanted to be temporary is permanent. There are no happy endings for the movie today: no transformations, no miracles to celebrate, and no heroic deeds. There's just Larry and me, holding on to one other, slowly making our way in the world, careening side by side. ▼

John R. Killackey's video *Necessary Action* screens June 17 at the Roxie Cinema as part of the SFILGFF.

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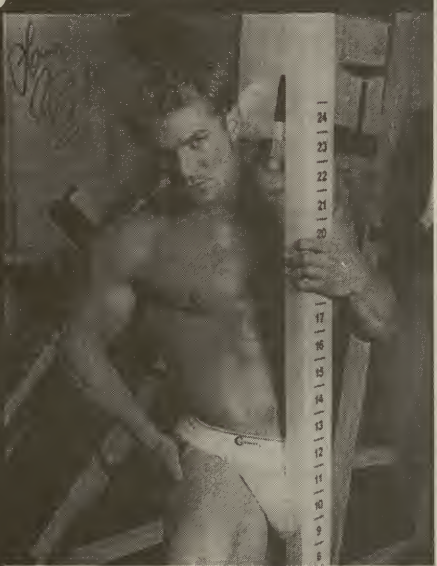


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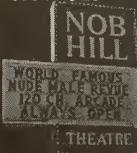
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PARTING GLANCES

Monday 5/22 Kabuki Springs
Me: Blond, smooth, 30's. You: (Jeff?) Dark, hairy, very sexy. Much eye contact; I was reading in lounge, you said hi; then I had to leave @ 7pm. Let's talk. ☎ 71994

Santiago 5-3
18th Street laundry at Noe. You: cute GAM, wearing Hawaii t-shirt. Me: behind you in line, sunglasses & green shirt, wish I said hello. Talk? Sometime? ☎ 71994

Hip Boots Blow Buddies Sun 5/7
You: leather "dad" with beard and tall boots, me: s/p hair, mustache, eager cocksucker. We met outside, I took a smoke break. Need a suck slave? ☎ 71955

Tony/Troy??? We Shared 1 Kiss...
We shared 1 kiss together Pleasure-dome/Memorial Day. Wanted to talk but was attentive/loyal to semi incoherent friend. Would like to be loyal to you! I'm extremely charmed by you both times we've met (End-up months ago) Interested in dinner/conversation? Guy.. Call Me. ☎ 71993

F Line Castro & 17th
You: Tall, lean, short hair, handsome. Me: older, not best shape, grey hair, green polo bag. May I send you flowers? ☎ 71973

Pleasuredome 5/14 Duncan
I'm glad you said hello, and I love watching you dance. Would you whisper in my ear again. Jon ☎ 71952

Nathan Hines.....
You moved. I lost contact. I want you in my life once again. Please call!!!! ☎ 71995

Last Car On Bart-Wed Rush Hour
Me, sitting reading BAR; you standing near by. Exchanged sexy glances. Lost you at 12th Str. When I met a friend-Bummer! Would love to say hello. ☎ 71956

Bald Guy In A McDonald's On 5/11.
I am looking (?) Asian man that wishes that I would have had the balls to say something to you. Call me please. ☎ 71953

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

GAM 48 Seeks GWM 70 Or Over
For ltr. Prefer non-smoker, clean shaven & mid-west background. ☎ 71976

Goodlooking Latino 29
I'm 5'6", 165lbs., stocky, muscular, dark features. Seeking Latinos or Whites under 40 for friendship for building a monogamous LTR. N/s only. ☎ 71975

Seeking Brainsy Guy
GWM, 54, 5'8", 185,brn/blue, HIV-, wishes to meet a man of ideas, intellect and curiosity- a bright fellow interested in conversation, discourse, and the pursuit of happiness and fulfillment. S 71957

GWM Seeks Sweetheart
ISO a warm, caring & considerate, GHM or GWM, 36-46, HIV-, who enjoys the outdoors, movies, dining out, kissing & cuddling. Me: GWM, a young 42, HIV-, 5'9", 175lbs. brn/blu. ☎ 71958

Headmaster Bro Sgt Coach Sought
By procrastinating, once successful, boyish, HWP, 40s, GWM for routine accountability. Selfdiscipline is fulfilling commitments on schedule or grabbing ankles for paddle safe, sane, possible live in. ☎ 72001

HIV+ Bk5'9"165#Healthy Active
Mostly top, seeking 1on1 interaction with lean or slim build mostly bottom. Attracted to guys with good body proportion. Prefer guys in my size range. ☎ 71959

Good Looking Straight Type
Genuine, fun loving, non-scene GWM 42, 6'1", 195lbs. not into gay life. Seeks romance and love with similar good looking, masculine, relationship-oriented, non-scene nice guy with personality. S 72012

Attractive Latino
Goodlooking Latino 34yo black hair, goatee, brown eyes. Professional looking for GWM between 27-40yo for friendship. Me like go out dinner, biking, travel, hiking, just call. ☎ 71960

Let's Date
GWM, 42, 200lbs. s&p hair, HIV-, seeks 35-45yo. Top. I am financially secure prof who likes fun times and engaging conversation. HIV-only pls. Just a call away. ☎ 71961

Libertarian
Masculine. In great shape, 40, 175#, 6'-110; brn/brn. HIV positive, completely healthy. My dogs, my ranch, working out. Some travel, some movies, some town, some country. Someone. Simple, easy, fun. ☎ 71974

Coffee Seeking Cream
42year old, 5'10", smooth, fun, romantic into outdoor adventure and indoor intimacy. Seeks LTR with GM into passion, fun and conversation. ☎ 71977

R U Romantic Caring GWM 28-38?
Attractive GAM 5'11", 175lbs professionally employed, well-adjusted individual into movies, hiking, cooking, quiet time ISO similar. Friendship first and possibly more. Chat over coffee! ☎ 71978

GBM, 32, 6'2", 170, Smith Ln Blvd
Cln, cut, hg 8", drug &std free, ISO slim White males 18 to 26 on for poss. LTR. ☎ 71979

Mixed Latin ISO Friends / Fun
Seeking on-going great times with another Latin. I'm 34, dark featured. 5'6", 155, versatile. Movies, roller-blading, dinner, clubbing & you know; as we get to know. ☎ 71996

ISO GAM 20-45 for LTR
Very attractive GWM 57, 6', 175, gym-toned body. High-energy guy wants to share life, love and interests in food, wine, travel, foreign languages, nature and the arts. ☎ 71997

Best Buds
Masculine, muscular Italian toman seeks another masculine toman to "Hang", stroke & vacation with. Good friends only. Age, race not important. ☎ 71998

Rancher Seeks Cowboy
GWM 50, 5'10, 180#, black hair, short trimmed beard, brown eyes. Outdoors person. Non smoker, drinker. HIV- seeks down to earth GWM preferably younger for long term monogamous relationship. ☎ 71999

Seeking Slim Smooth HIV+ Guy
Attractive hung 41yo GWM seeks slim 28-38yo bottom or versatile guy of any race for fun hot sex and possible LTR. Prefer smooth to lightly hairy. HIV+ only please. ☎ 72000

Hot Frenchman!
French guy desired for love and adventure by hung romantic blue eyed European in late 30's. Let's meet in San Francisco or Europe... ☎ 72002

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Santa Rosa Head
W/M, 44, 6/265 will service W/M's no recip. Great Rincon Valley location for a nooner. ☎ 71987

Submissive Black Bottom
In good shape, athletic body. Hot mouth, deep throat seeks top, verbal & raunch, kink, sleaze & wk ends & eve. ☎ 71962

Young Slave For Training
Very cute 26yo, submissive European boy wants to be trained by a cute but demanding master(s) under 36. Total obedience is guaranteed. ☎ 71963

I Want To Suck You Off, Slowly
1 or 2 at a time, in-shape. Straight acting, not nelly, Mexican & Cowboys A+. I'm 35, masculine but submissive & ready to service you. Sir! ☎ 71964

Balding And Near 50
But hung and horny Black man seeks a mature, masculine oral expert to suck my stick. Oakland area. No voicemail, answering machine, pager or work phone #'s. Sincere only. Thanks. ☎ 71965

Non Hairy Bear Top
56 GWM HIV- 6'5", 265 wants shorter HIV- hairy bear bottom with hot hole, playful tits, aroma/smoke are fine. ☎ 71966

Bodybuilder Phone 50
Bodyworship, muscle sex, role play, orders, flexing, posing, weightlifting in jockstrap. Call with your fantasy. 5'9", 195lb. 45'c, 16a. ☎ 71967

RU Short But Dominant?
Very submissive for smaller, dominant guys. Me, 5'10", 140lbs, slim, gym, 48yo. Expert full-body service including massage. Can take some pain. Race not a factor. ☎ 71980

Asian And Filipino Bottoms Yea
Affectionate, masculine, always horny top with big tool wants to make love to your ass. Italian, 38, 165#, HIV-. Call if you want to be my bottom. ☎ 71981

Mature Masculine Submissive
Seeks dominant for bdsm erotic play. SW, 53 is intelligent experienced imaginative. Prefer same. ☎ 71982

Seeking Black Jackoff Partner
33yo blonde hair, blue eyed man seeks jo adventure. Want discreet, handsome, masculine Black male. Uncut and hung a plus. Call for more details. ☎ 71983

Straight? You Can't Help It!...
But you sure can help the lousy head you're getting from uneager/unintended females by switching to male me! I'll suck you off both eagerly and right, tonight! ☎ 71985

Fact Of Gay (As In My) Life:
More gay guys wanna suck tool than ever want their tools sucked. That's why I luv suckin str8 guys off. They appreciate it (and shoot) more. Can't get enuf. Try me! ☎ 71986

Spanking Guys
Need your butt warmed up good? 47, fit, handsome, 5'8", 150, 25 years of discipline games. Seeking lean guy, 20's/30's for bareassed spanking. Need it? then drop trou & call! ☎ 71988

My Face Needs Hots Cum Bath
If you're over 65 with large load this masculine WM 57 would like to stroke your cock see feel your hot cum splatter all over my face! S 72003

Hairy Ass Middle Eastern
Gd looking 5'7", green eyes, big nipples, (lin) body bldp, is looking for a top fister with a sling to train & stretch. ☎ 72004

I Fuck Your Face
You 30x-40s stud, like to service older guy 7 1/2" uncut eager cock. I reciprocate, hungry for thick cut ones. ☎ 72005

Gang Bang Daddy!
For his 60th birthday, daddy wants to be gang banged by four to six small, smooth, young pretty boys with average endowments. As a group or individuals. Bi-racial a +. ☎ 72006

Bad Boys Need Real Butt
Spankings with hand , paddle and strap. OTK. over chair, then spread eagle on the bed. Str8, curious, cool. Private location. Fantasies? I'm 36, 6'2", 190#, HIV-. Limits respected and expanded. ☎ 72007

Dad ISO Submissive Son
Goodlooking top, GWM, Italian/German, 5'8", 150lbs, 53, HIV+, ISO younger, submissive bottom for mutual satisfaction, latino, Black or Asian a + but not necessary. ☎ 72008

Chubby, Fat, Stocky, Heavy-set
GBM, 46, 5'11", 250lbs, seeks chubby & fat men for uninhibited safe sex. Discretion a must. Big tits, thighs, legs & butt a +. ☎ 72009

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Extreme Raunch Action..
W/M, looking for other raunch hounds into derelicts, winos & homeless guys, for heavy raunch action. ☎ 71969

Seek Red/Brown Flag Lt Sm Top
By mature GWM for training, limit expanding, service, bondage, restraint, prefer mature, hairy, single, serious/intense man. Leather, old Soma A +. ☎ 71970

Just Sex But Passionate
Boy 35, 5'11", 190 brn eyes & hair (HIVpos). You be 40-55 bald. Hairy chest A+ must love to kiss & touch a lot of fourplay for weekend get togethers. ☎ 71992

ISO Ticklish Slender Asian Men
Do you love to be tied, tickled and teased? It can be slow and sensual or wild and playful. My fingers, feathers, brushes and tongue are ready! ☎ 71993

Sensual Spit Scenes
WM, 44, 6', 160lbs, dark brn eyes, med hry, ISO others to slowly drive all over my face & mouth. Husky/chubby, hairy, older groups a +, but all welcome. No SM, pain, VA, drugs. ☎ 72010

I Need Your Dark Socked Feet
GWM, 35, handsome will appreciate your warm, moist socked feet after a hard day's work. Manual/oral massage feels great while you lay back. Relax, melt, release. Businessmen, waiters, uniform a +. ☎ 72011

COUPLES

When One Is Not Enough!
ISO masculine versatile daddy type to assist dad work his boys holes frt & rear and to satisfy our needs. Double anal penetration possible, aroma and herb ok 40+. ☎ 71971

East Bay Couple 34, & 37
Seek third or couple for erotic fun (maybe more). We are safe, sane, HIV-, physically active, versatile, vanilla to kinky. You should be too. Willingness to explore, blond + +. ☎ 71989

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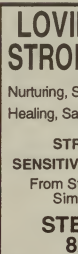
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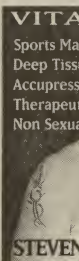
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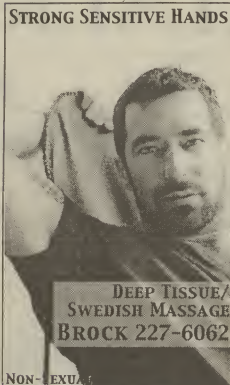
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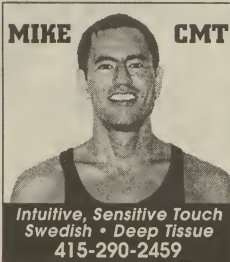
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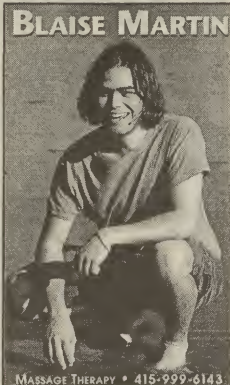
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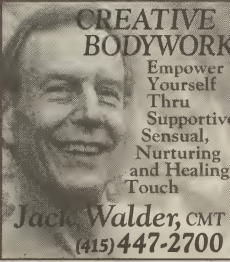
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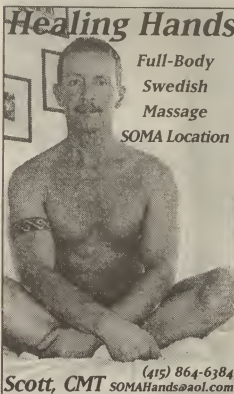
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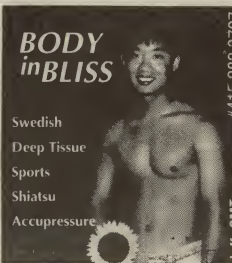
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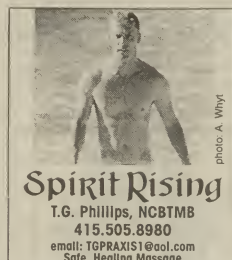
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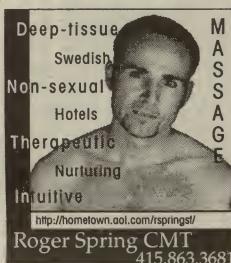
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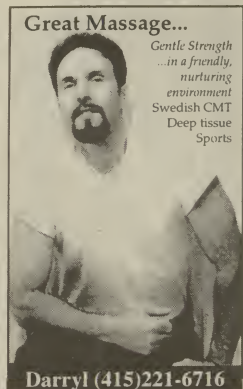
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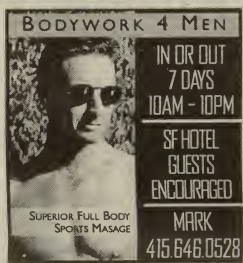
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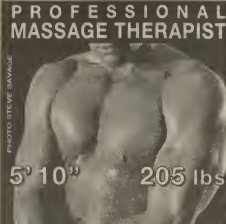
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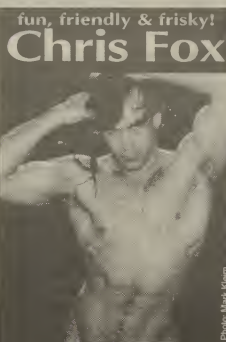
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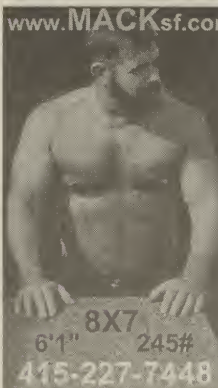
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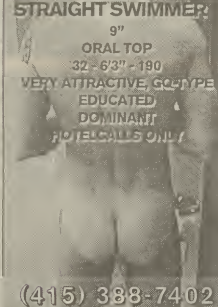
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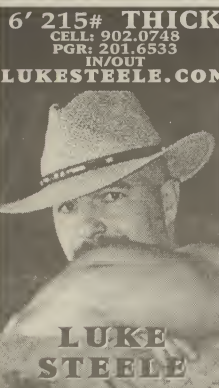
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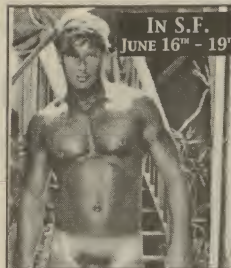
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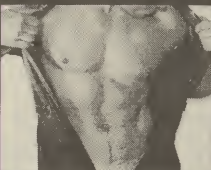
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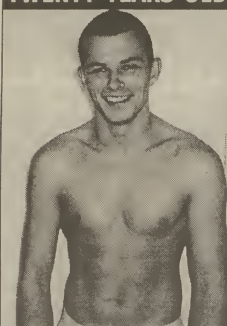
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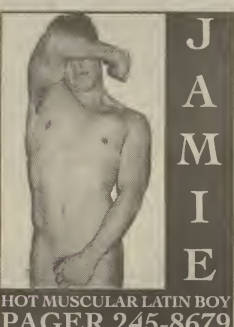


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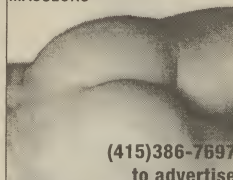
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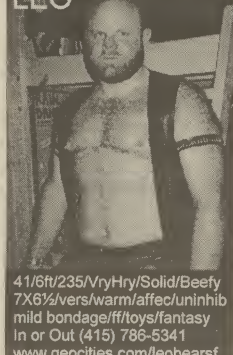
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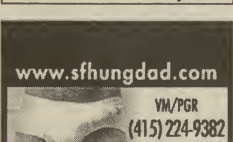
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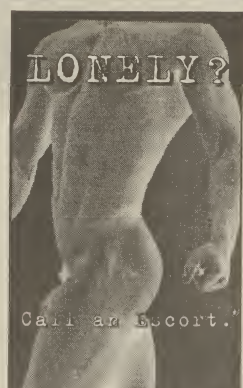
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PLEASUREDOME APOLOGIZES

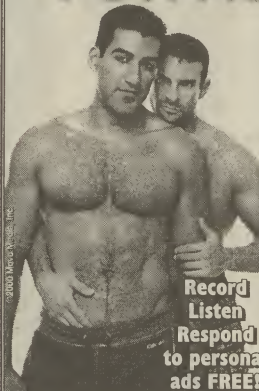
For the first time in its long history, Pleasuredome was unable to open on Sunday, June 11th because of an electrical emergency. We hope to see everyone next Sunday June 18th. Admission will be FREE all night to everyone. We regret any inconvenience to our loyal customers.

YOUNG, HUNG, AND FULL OF CUM
Where the most men meet.
All local, All live. Call 415-956-3737,
510-238-8877, 956-687-5755, 408-257-4411.
FREE Trial Code: 2181
www.interactivemale.com

MAN2MAN
Join the Meetline!
1-206-496-MEET
LIVE 24/7

HOT, HUNG & HORNY
1-473-407-8506
IT'S TOLL APPLIES 18+

GET READY FOR ACTION!



Meet hot guys in your area tonight!

San Francisco
415-247-2000
East Bay
510-814-6699
Metro San Jose
408-532-3000
Use FREE Access Code 1172

THE CONFIDENTIAL CONNECTION®

someone wants to meet you!
www.confidentialconnection.com

Record Listen Respond to personal ads FREE!

Just \$1.99-\$2.49/min. for certain optional features. 18+ Move Media, Inc. takes no responsibility for personal meetings. 800-825-1598



MALE CALL

7¢

"you get the picture"

1-206-312-0029

18+ LOW LD TOLL



WANTED!

BAY AREA MEN

- Live Talk
 - Meet Ads
 - Voice Mail
- 24 Hours
\$2.00
976-7500

Free
(415) 981-8123

Explore your desires...

Bi-Curious?
FREE Access code 3954
415-247-2000



Join The Party!

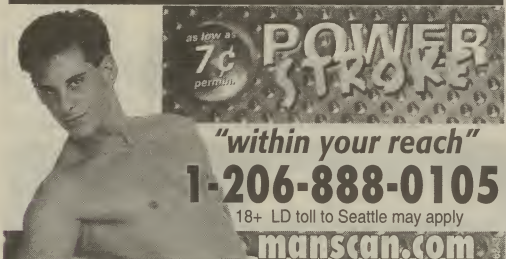
Browse, match, chat!

voice MALE

www.voicemale.com

Record and listen to ads FREE!
415-247-5555
use free access code: 707

Just \$1.99-\$2.49/min. for certain optional features. 18+ Move Media, Inc. does not pre-screen callers. 800-825-1598



POWER STROKE
as low as 7¢ per min.

"within your reach"

1-206-888-0105

18+ LD toll to Seattle may apply

manscan.com

BAY AREA REPORTER

CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM

Indicate Type Style Here ▼

DEADLINE

NOON on MONDAY.
Payment must accompany ad.
No ads taken over the telephone. If you have a question, call 415.861.5019.
Display advertising rates available upon request.

RATES

First line, Regular 4.50
All subsequent lines 3.00
CAPS double price
BOLD double price
X-BOLD triple price

PAYMENT

- ☐ Cash
☐ Personal Check
☐ Money Order
☐ Visa
☐ MasterCard
☐ American Express
Minimum \$10 charge.

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

Card Number

Expiration Date

Signature

Name

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name

Telephone

Address

City

State

Zip

Number of Issues

Classification

Amount Enclosed

MAIL WITH PAYMENT TO:
Bay Area Reporter
395 Ninth Street
SF, CA 94103
OR FAX TO:
415.861.8144
OR E-MAIL:
baradv@aol.com

X-BOLD Stops Here ▼

BOLD Stops Here ▼

CAPS Stop Here ▼

Regular Stops Here ▼

THE DUNGEON



I-ON-1

GROUPS

VOICE MAIL

FANTASIES

1-800-800-8900

As low as 49¢/minute to your Visa/MC as CompuQuest.

photo: Ali

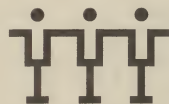
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Community

Welcome home. This is it. Where our community stays online to get news, find information, seek entertainment and reach more people, all of the time.

The Gay Network. www.gay.com



GAY.COM